Friday, May 15, 2026 No 134 ₹7

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US set to drop charges against Adani

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TRUMP-XI IN-PERSON MEETINGS

- **2017** April 6–7 — Mar-a-Lago — First in-person Trump-Xi summit
- **2017** Nov 8–10 — Beijing — Trump's state visit
- **2018** Dec 1 — Buenos Aires — G20 summit
- **2019** June 29 — Osaka — G20 summit
- **2026** May 14–15 — Beijing — Trump's state visit

HIGH-STAKES: Summit highlights deep divisions despite warm public display

Mishandling of Taiwan issue could lead to conflict, Xi tells Trump

BEIJING, AFP

Chinese President Xi Jinping warned his US counterpart Donald Trump that missteps on Taiwan could push their two countries into "conflict", delivering a stark opening message as they met in Beijing on Thursday for a high-stakes summit.

Trump arrived in China praising his host, calling Xi a "great leader" and "friend", and extending an invitation to visit the White House in September.

Beyond the pomp surrounding Trump's welcome, Xi struck a less effusive tone, saying the two sides "should be partners and not rivals", while immediately raising the issue of Taiwan — which Beijing claims as its territory.

"The Taiwan question is the most important issue in China-US relations," Xi said, according to remarks published by Chinese state media shortly after the talks began. The meeting lasted two hours and 15 minutes.

"If mishandled, the two nations could collide or even come into conflict, pushing the entire China-US relationship into a highly perilous situation," Xi added.

Trump's trip to Beijing is the first by a US president in nearly a decade, with the grand reception masking unresolved trade and geopolitical tensions between the two countries.

Xi greeted Trump with a red-carpet welcome at the opulent Great Hall of the People, complete with military band fanfare, a 21-gun salute and schoolchildren chanting "welcome!".

Seemingly enjoying the ceremony, Trump said "the relationship between China and the USA is going to be better than ever before".

Xi, however, referenced a political theory about the risks of war when a rising power rivals a ruling one, inspired by an ancient Greek historian. "Can China and the United States transcend the so-called 'Thucydides Trap' and forge a new paradigm for major-power relations?" Xi asked. At a state banquet later in the evening, the Chinese leader insisted cooperation remained possible.

"Achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and making America great again can totally go hand in hand... and advance the well-being of the whole world," Xi said, referring to Trump's MAGA movement. However, longstanding tensions remain, with Taiwan looming large over the relationship.

The US recognises only Beijing but, under US law, is required to provide weapons to the self-ruled island for its defence. China has vowed to take Taiwan and has not ruled out the use of force, while ramping up military pressure in recent years.

Following Xi's comments on Thursday, Taipei called China the "sole risk" to regional peace and insisted that "the US side has repeatedly reaffirmed its clear and firm support".

Trump had said on Monday that he would discuss US arms sales to Taiwan with Xi, marking a departure from Washington's previous insistence that it would not consult Beijing on the matter.

The White House described the initial talks on Thursday as "good", though Taiwan was not mentioned in its official readout.

Adam Ni, editor of the newsletter China Neican, told AFP that while Xi's "blunt language" was not unusual in party state media, it was rare for the Chinese leader himself to speak in such direct terms.

China has been "signalling a desire for US compromise on Taiwan", Chong Ja Ian of the National University of Singapore told AFP.

Xi's comments could suggest "they see some opportunity to convince Trump", he said.

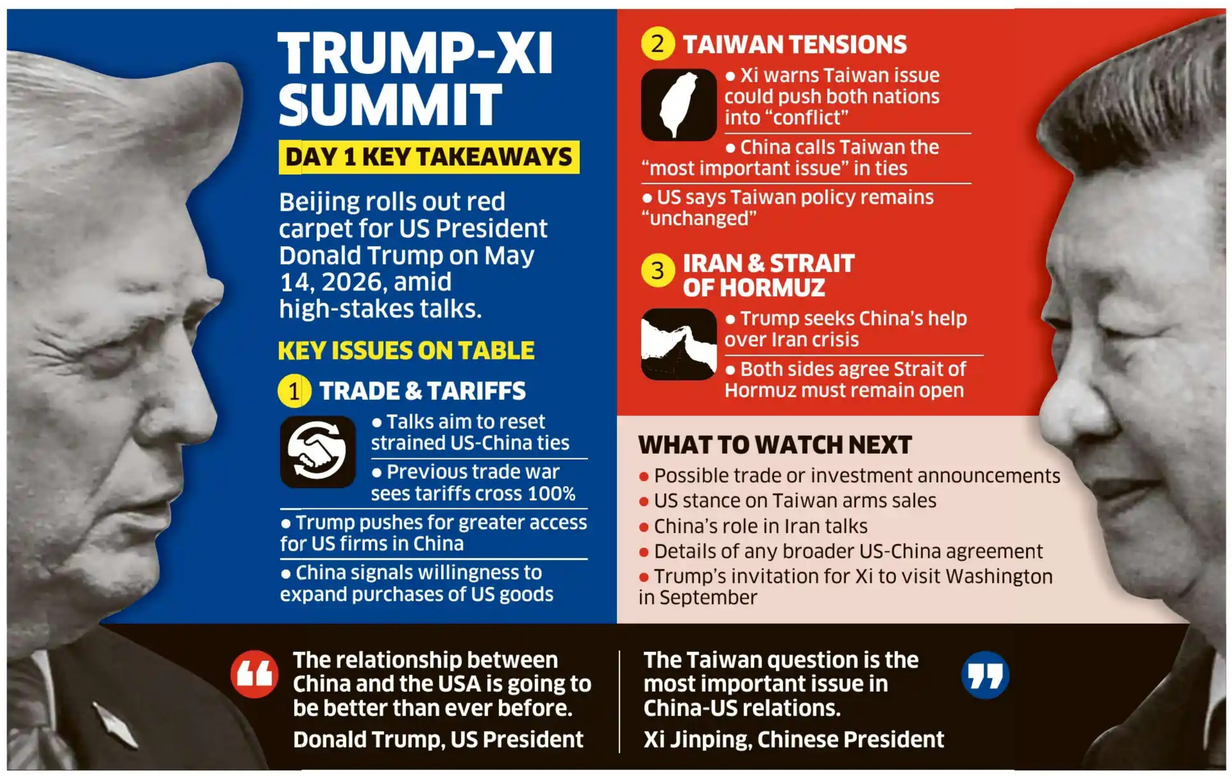
Trump did not comment publicly on Taiwan on Thursday, but US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told CNBC that the president would say more "in the coming days". Iran overshadows In its brief readout, the White House said the leaders also discussed the Iran war, an issue analysts said could weaken Trump's position after already forcing him to postpone the trip.

The two sides "agreed that the Strait of Hormuz must remain open to support the free flow of energy", the White House said.

Xi Jinping and Donald Trump at a welcome ceremony in Beijing. REUTERS

Trump inspects a honour guard during a welcome ceremony. REUTERS

Xi Jinping and Donald Trump attend a state banquet. AFP


TRUMP-XI SUMMIT
DAY 1 KEY TAKEAWAYS
Beijing rolls out red carpet for US President Donald Trump on May 14, 2026, amid high-stakes talks.
KEY ISSUES ON TABLE
1 TRADE & TARIFFS
• Talks aim to reset strained US-China ties
• Previous trade war sees tariffs cross 100%
• Trump pushes for greater access for US firms in China
• China signals willingness to expand purchases of US goods
2 TAIWAN TENSIONS
• Xi warns Taiwan issue could push both nations into "conflict"
• China calls Taiwan the "most important issue" in ties
• US says Taiwan policy remains "unchanged"
3 IRAN & STRAIT OF HORMUZ
• Trump seeks China's help over Iran crisis
• Both sides agree Strait of Hormuz must remain open
WHAT TO WATCH NEXT
• Possible trade or investment announcements
• US stance on Taiwan arms sales
• China's role in Iran talks
• Details of any broader US-China agreement
• Trump's invitation for Xi to visit Washington in September
The relationship between China and the USA is going to be better than ever before.
Donald Trump, US President
The Taiwan question is the most important issue in China-US relations.
Xi Jinping, Chinese President

China clears Nvidia chip sales, plans Boeing order

WASHINGTON/BEIJING, REUTERS: China has cleared around 10 domestic firms to buy Nvidia's second-most powerful AI chip, the H200, while also agreeing to order 200 Boeing jets, signalling progress in trade ties during US President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing.

Three people familiar with the matter said the US Commerce Department had approved Chinese companies, including Alibaba, Tencent, ByteDance and JD.com, to purchase Nvidia's H200 chips. However, no deliveries have been made so far, leaving the deal in limbo as Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang seeks a breakthrough during his visit to China this week.

The developments underscore how the US-China technology rivalry continues to affect trade, even in areas where approvals have already been granted. Before tighter US export restrictions, Nvidia controlled about 95% of China's advanced chip market. China once accounted for 13% of Nvidia's revenue, and Huang has estimated the country's AI market alone would be worth $50 billion this year.

Separately, Trump told Fox News that China had agreed to purchase 200 Boeing jets, marking the country's first major order of US-made commercial aircraft in nearly a decade.

"One thing he agreed to today, he's going to order 200 jets... Boeing wanted 150, they got 200," Fox News cited Trump as saying, referring to Xi.

Rubio says US policy towards Taiwan is 'unchanged'

BEIJING, AP/PTI: Secretary of State Marco Rubio said US policy towards Taiwan is "unchanged" after President Donald Trump's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, but warned it would be "a terrible mistake" for China to take Taiwan by force.

Rubio made the remarks in an interview with NBC News while travelling with the president on his trip to China.

He sidestepped Xi's warning that differences over the self-governing island could lead to a clash, and said China always raises the issue of Taiwan during talks.

"US policy on the issue of Taiwan is unchanged as of today and as of the meeting that we had here today. It was raised. They always raise it on their side. We always make clear our position, and we move on to the other topics," Rubio said.

China is sole threat to regional stability: Taipei

TAIPEI, AP/PTI: "China is currently the only risk to regional peace and stability," Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in response to Xi Jinping's warning to the US to be careful over Taiwan.

"Even during the meeting between the leaders of the United States and China, the People's Liberation Army continued to send military aircraft and ships to harass and threaten Taiwan in the region," the ministry said.

Xi said "Taiwan independence" and cross-strait peace are as irreconcilable as fire and water, while noting that the issue was the most important in bilateral relations.

Meanwhile, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Thursday that President Donald Trump would say more on Taiwan "in the coming days".

"It wouldn't be a US-China summit without the Taiwan issue coming up," Bessent, who is with Trump in China, told US business news network CNBC.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Rescuers carry an injured person at the site of a residential building that was destroyed following Russian drones and missiles strikes in Kyiv on Thursday. AFP

Russia pounds Ukraine in heaviest drone attack

▶ Russia carried out its largest aerial attack over a two-day period since the start of its war in Ukraine, pounding the capital Kyiv and other cities with hundreds of drones, Ukrainian officials said on Thursday, Reuters reports from Kyiv.

Russia had launched 1,567 drones since the start of Wednesday, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said. At least 15 civilians have been killed over the two days, officials said. He said Moscow had launched more than 670 attack drones and 56 missiles overnight, and air defence units shot down 41 of the missiles and 652 drones, the air force said. "These are definitely not the actions of those who believe the war is coming to an end," Zelenskyy said. "It's important that partners do not remain silent about this strike. And it is equally important to continue supporting the protection of our skies." At least nine people, including a 12-year-old girl, were killed in Kyiv. Six people were killed in a daytime attack focused on western Ukraine on Wednesday, officials said. Russia began its full-scale invasion in February 2022.

Cuba's power grid collapses

▶ Cuba's national energy grid suffered a major failure early Thursday, cutting power across the island's eastern provinces, authorities said, as residents in the capital Havana continued to face prolonged blackouts, AP/PTI reports from Havana.

Cuba's ageing power grid has deteriorated in recent years amid a prolonged economic crisis, recently worsened by a US energy blockade of the island, where daily life has become increasingly difficult. The state-run Electric Union said the collapse cut electricity to all eastern provinces from Guantanamo to Ciego de Avila. On Wednesday evening, residents in several neighbourhoods banging pots and pans and setting fire to rubbish bins in protest against the blackouts.

A pyrotechnic device explodes as miners march to La Paz in demand for Bolivian President Rodrigo Paz's resignation in El Alto on Thursday. AFP

Pak test-fires cruise missile

▶ Pakistan on Thursday successfully tested the indigenously developed Fatah-4 ground-launched cruise missile, capable of engaging long-range targets with high precision, PTI reports from Islamabad.

The launch was organised by the Rocket Force Command, according to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the military. "Equipped with advanced avionics and state-of-the-art navigational aids, the weapon system is capable of engaging long-range targets with high precision," the army said. The missile was test-fired to enhance the operational efficiency of troops and validate the technical parameters of various sub-systems incorporated for improved accuracy and enhanced survivability, it said.

Pope slams AI-driven warfare

▶ Pope Leo XIV on Thursday denounced how investments in artificial intelligence and high-tech weaponry were leading the world into a "spiral of annihilation", as he called for peace in West Asia and Ukraine during a visit to Europe's largest university, AP/PTI reports from Rome.

Leo's speech at Rome's La Sapienza University marked the first time a pope has visited the campus since Pope Benedict XVI called off a planned speech there in 2008 in the face of protests from faculty and students. The American pope was warmly welcomed on Thursday, including by some of Sapienza's newest students: young Palestinians who arrived in Italy this week on a "humanitarian corridor" from Gaza to continue their studies at the university.

Actress Yasmine Sabri arrives for the screening of the film "Fatherland" at the 79th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France, on Thursday. AFP

2 India-bound LPG tankers cross Strait of Hormuz

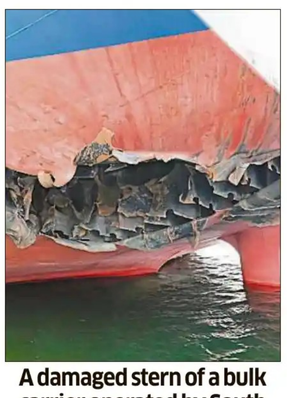
Dhow sinks under attack

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Two LPG tankers headed for India successfully transited the Strait of Hormuz amid ongoing regional tensions, even as an Indian-flagged dhow sank after being attacked near the vital shipping route, officials said on Thursday.

The Marshall Islands-flagged tanker Symi crossed the strait on May 13, while the Vietnam-flagged NV Sunshine followed on Thursday. The crossings bring the total number of Indian vessels that have navigated the strategic waterway, largely closed since the US-Israel strikes on Iran and subsequent Iranian retaliation more than two months ago, to 13.

Symi was carrying 19,965 tonnes of LPG and is expected to arrive at Gujarat's Kandla Port on May 16. NV Sunshine, loaded with 46,427 tonnes of LPG from the UAE's Ruwais refinery, is scheduled to dock at New Mangalore on May 18. The cargo on both vessels belongs to Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).



A damaged stern of a bulk carrier operated by South Korean shipper HMM, after it was struck by unidentified objects on May 4 in the Strait of Hormuz. REUTERS FILE

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY
Government of India

"The attack on an Indian-flagged ship off the coast of Oman yesterday is unacceptable and we deplore the fact that commercial shipping and civilian mariners continue to be targeted.

In a separate incident, the Indian mechanised sailing vessel (MSV) Haji Ali, a traditional wooden dhow, came under attack in the early hours of Wednesday in Omani waters while en route from Somalia to Sharjah, UAE.

The assault caused a fire onboard, leading to the vessel sinking. All 14 crew members were safely rescued by the Omani Coast Guard and have been brought to Dibba Port in Oman.

"The crew is reported to be safe, and necessary formalities with the local authorities have been completed," Mukesh Mangal, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, told media persons here.

"The crew will be brought back to India soon. The Government of India remains in close coordination with the authorities in the Sultanate of Oman, Indian Mission officials and relevant maritime agencies," he said.

The 57-metre-long and 14-metre-wide dhow was a traditional Indian wooden sailing vessel with lateen sails, historically central to maritime trade in the Indian Ocean.

The safe passage of the two LPG tankers comes amid a deadlock in negotiations to end the conflict and coincides with the visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to New Delhi for the BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting.

UK health secy resigns, setting up leadership challenge to Starmer

LONDON, AP/PTI

Efforts to unseat British Prime Minister Keir Starmer from within his own government erupted into open rebellion on Thursday, with one potential rival resigning from the Cabinet and another positioning herself for a possible future leadership contest.

Health Secretary Wes Streeting became the first senior minister to quit Starmer's Cabinet, in what is widely seen as a precursor to a leadership challenge. Starmer is facing mounting pressure from within the Labour Party to step down after the party suffered disastrous losses in local and regional elections last week. The setback reinforced doubts among many Labour lawmakers over Starmer's judgment, vision and leadership ability — a sharp indictment of the man who returned Labour to power in July 2024 after 14 years in opposition.

"You have shown courage and statesmanship on the world stage — not least in keeping Britain out of the war in Iran," Streeting wrote in a scathing resignation letter. "But where we need vision, we have a vacuum. Where we need direction, we have drift." "It is now clear that you will not lead the Labour Party into the next general election," he added.

British Health Secretary Wes Streeting. REUTERS FILE

Streeting, whose political ambitions have long been known, is considered one of a handful of figures capable of challenging Starmer. A leadership change would not automatically trigger a national election, as Labour was elected for a five-year term and British political rules allow parties to replace leaders while remaining in government.

Another likely challenger, former Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner, said on Thursday that she had reached an agreement with tax authorities to settle questions surrounding her taxes, an issue that forced her to leave the Cabinet last September. Rayner told The Guardian that Starmer should "reflect on" his position, adding that she was ready to "play my part" in any leadership contest if Streeting moved against him.

Nepal denies new curbs on Indians

KATHMANDU, PTI: Nepal on Thursday said it had not imposed any new restrictions on tourists from India, dismissing media reports as "entirely false and baseless" about Indian nationals facing various restrictions and hassles while entering the Himalayan nation.

The open-border arrangements and bilateral understandings between Nepal and India remain intact, and no change has been made to the longstanding people-to-people ties, cultural relations and tourism cooperation between the two countries, the Nepal Tourism Board said in a statement.

Dismissing media reports about Indians facing various restrictions and hassles while entering Nepal, tourism officials said there was no truth in reports by a section of national and international media that restrictions such as visas, a 30-day limit or other hassles had been imposed on Indian nationals.

Earlier, the Nepalese Embassy in New Delhi wrote on X: "No Visa, no hassle. Just hearts." "No limit, only experience. Use a passport or voter ID. Fly or drive your own car," the embassy added. "If you are driving a car, you need to register for a vehicle entry permit," said an official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Delhi HC judge starts contempt proceedings against Kejriwal

Delhi CM announces WFH, Monday Metro commute

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

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Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
& Bengaluru City Development Minister
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Sabarimala case: SC reserves order after 16 days of hearing

NEW DELHI, PTI: A nine-judge Supreme Court bench on Thursday reserved its order on petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places, including Sabarimala temple, and on the ambit and scope of religious freedom practised by multiple faiths.

The bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant said the power of judicial review is a constitutional duty, and it can't give up its responsibility in matters of social reform and welfare. Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi are also part of the bench.

Senior advocate K Parmeshwar, who is amicus curiae in the matter, submitted that the primary responsibility for social welfare and reform lies with the Legislature, which is a constitutional mandate, but that does not mean the court is not empowered in certain circumstances.

Parmeshwar argued that the judicial role is not that of an overzealous reformer or a passive onlooker. He contended that the validity of religious rights should not be judged based on factors such as rationality.

Ahead of the hearing, the Centre had filed written submissions and requested the top court to uphold the restriction on the entry of women of menstruating age into the Sabarimala temple. It said the issue falls squarely within the domain of religious faith and denominational autonomy, and lies beyond the scope of judicial review.

Reserving the verdict after hearing parties, the top court asked them to file comprehensive written submissions by May 29.

Election Commission must be independent for free, fair polls: SC

Stresses independence must also be seen; hearing on CEC law concludes

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said free and fair elections were a part of the basic structure of the Constitution, and this could not be ensured unless the Election Commission (EC) was independent and also appeared to be independent.

A bench comprising Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma made the observations during the final hearing on a batch of six petitions challenging the constitutional validity of a new law governing the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the Election Commissioners (ECs).

The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, which came into force on January 2, 2024, mandates that the CEC and ECs are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a Selection Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet minister, and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

The law replaces the Chief Justice of India with a Union Cabinet Minister on the three-member selection panel.

> Independence of the Election Commission is a facet of the basic structure of the Constitution, as free and fair elections depend on it. The level of confidence must be to that degree (that it must appear) as if there had been a third neutral person in the selection committee. Why should it be a minister from the cabinet?
> **SUPREME COURT**

While hearing the submissions of Attorney General R Venkataramani on behalf of the Central government, Justice Datta said, "It is not sufficient for the Election Commission to be independent; it has to appear to be independent."

The attorney general mounted a robust defence, asserting that Parliament had the absolute right to legislate and was not bound to follow the "stop-gap" arrangement suggested by a five-judge bench in the Anoop Baranwal judgment.

The Baranwal judgment was an exercise of Article 142 (discretionary power to do complete justice) and did not constitute a binding law under Article 141 that could override an Act of Parliament.

The Central government's counsel said the bench should not strike down a law based on hypothetical bias.

He cautioned the bench against "entering the legislative arena" or acting as a "second chamber of Parliament."

Justice Datta said the EC's independence was a facet of the "basic structure" of the Constitution, as free and fair elections depend on it.

Referring to the attorney general's submissions on judicial overreach, Justice Datta said, "Parliament may attribute anything to the judiciary, but we know our Lakshman Rekha. We will never do that."

BRICS meet: Iran slams UAE for colluding with Israel, US

Alleges Abu Dhabi provided military bases, intel & airspace

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

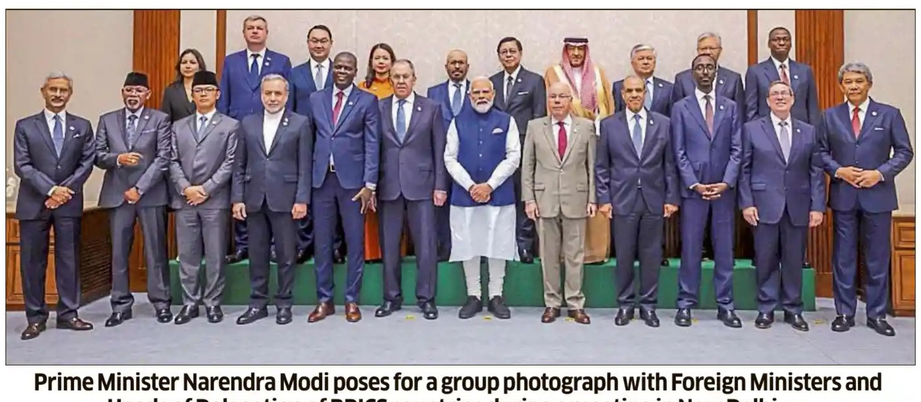
The ongoing West Asia conflict overshadowed a meeting of the foreign ministers of all BRICS nations in the Capital on Thursday, with Iranian Foreign Minister Syed Abbas Araghchi accusing Abu Dhabi of being an "active partner" in the recent attacks on his country.

The Iranian minister alleged that the UAE provided military bases, airspace and intelligence support to Israel and the US during the conflict.

Just a day before the meeting, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office revealed that he had visited Abu Dhabi and met President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the UAE after launching, jointly with the US, the military strikes against Iran.

Though Abu Dhabi denied any such meeting, Tehran stated that the revelation had only corroborated what it had already known about the complicity of the UAE in the attacks against Iran.

"Netanyahu has now publicly revealed what Iran's security services long ago conveyed to our leadership. Enmity with the Great People of Iran is a foolish gamble. Collusion with Israel in doing so: unforgivable," Araghchi posted on X a few hours before participating in the BRICS meeting chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. "Those colluding with Israel to sow division will be held to account."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi poses for a group photograph with Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation of BRICS countries during a meeting in New Delhi. PTI

With Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan not attending, his deputy, Khalifa Shaheen Al Marar, led the delegation from the UAE at the meeting.

'Iran violates int'l law'

Al Marar tacitly hit out at Tehran for carrying out attacks on the UAE in response to the military offensive launched by Israel and the US on Iran. He subtly underlined that Iran's strikes on the UAE had violated international law.

"The UAE representative talks about international law. But which part of international law does allow support for an act of aggression without reason and without prior provocation?" Araqchi said in a quick riposte to Al Marar's statement.

He alleged that the UAE fighter jets had participated in strikes against Iran. "The UAE is an active partner in this aggression, and we have no doubt about it," he said, defending retaliatory strikes by Iran.

He said Iran had targeted only the US military bases and installations in the UAE, but not the UAE itself. He argued that the presence of the US troops and Israel's support had failed to provide security to the UAE and other states in the region.

Araghchi urged the UAE to "reconsider" its policies towards Iran.'

Iran has been nudging India, the current chair of the BRICS, since the early days of the conflict to get the bloc – seen as a grouping of developing nations and often criticised by President Donald Trump – to condemn the offensive launched by Israel and the US.

HC orders safe return of post-poll violence victims

KOLKATA, DHNS

The Calcutta High Court on Thursday directed the West Bengal government to ensure safe return of those displaced by post-poll violence.

Hearing a petition alleging widespread violence and vandalism targeting TMC supporters and party offices after BJP's victory in the Assembly polls, a division bench, headed by Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and comprising Justice Partha Sarathi Sen, ordered the police to ensure the safety and security of the people who had to flee homes fearing reprisals after the elections.

The court asked the state government to file its response within three weeks.

TMC chief Mamata Banerjee appeared before the court in lawyer's robes. She argued that the situation in several districts had deteriorated after the polls."Bengal is not a bulldozer state," Mamata submitted before the court.

BCI seeks report

The Bar Council of India has asked the West Bengal Bar Council to furnish a detailed report within 48 hours regarding Mamata's enrolment and practice status.

According to prevalent practice, a person, who was holding a constitutional post or gainfully employed, has to get the bar licence suspended during the service and for practising law again, the same has to be revived.

In a letter, BCI directed the secretary of the Bengal council to furnish complete records relating to Mamata's enrolment as an advocate, if any, and her practice status during and after her tenure as CM.

(With PTI inputs)

TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee leaves after appearing before the Calcutta HC to argue a case in connection with alleged post-poll violence and attacks on party offices. PTI

Severe storm, rain kill 111 in UP

LUCKNOW, DHNS & PTI

Severe storms and heavy rains that struck many parts of Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday claimed the lives of more than 111 people and left over 72 injured, leaving behind a trail of destruction and throwing normal life out of gear.

According to the reports, hundreds of trees were uprooted, and electricity poles toppled, disrupting power supply, damaging vehicles and blocking roads at several places across the state.

Varanasi, Prayagraj and Kanpur divisions were the worst affected and accounted for the highest number of fatalities.

In a statement, the Relief Commissioner's office said, "Due to bad weather on May 13, including storms, rain, hailstorm and lightning, reports of 111 deaths were received from 26 districts. 72 persons were injured, 170 livestock losses and damage to 227 houses have been reported in the state."

According to a list issued by the Prayagraj administration, till morning, 17 deaths were reported due to the storm and rain. As reports pour in from other areas, the district administration said 24 deaths have come to the fore in Wednesday's incidents.

This combo image from a video shows the sequence, from left, of a man being flung nearly 50 ft into the air along with a tin roof during a powerful storm, in Bareilly district. PTI

In Bhadohi, the district administration said at least 16 people died in storm-related incidents. Fatehpur Additional District Magistrate Avinash Tripathi said nine people were killed and 16 injured in storm-related incidents. In Pratapgarh, four people died in separate incidents, officials said.

In many rural areas, thatched houses and tin sheds were blown away by high-velocity winds, while heavy rain destroyed crops.

According to officials, families of persons who died in the calamity would get Rs 4 lakh.

Man swept high with tin shed

A video has emerged from Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly district, purportedly showing a man being swept high into the air while clinging to a tin shed during the powerful storms that struck several parts of the state on Wednesday, claiming more than 100 lives, reports DHNS.

The man, identified as Nanhe Mian, a resident of Bareilly, had grabbed hold of the shed when the storm hit. But the strong winds uprooted it, lifting the structure — and Mian with it — high into the air.

The video shows the man getting separated from the tin shed mid-air as the winds carried him further away. For a moment, he floated like a kite before somersaulting and crashing to the ground among a cluster of trees.

Reports said he fractured his arms and legs, suffered injuries to his back, face, and other parts of his body, and was admitted to hospital.

At least six people were killed in Bareilly district in incidents of wall collapse during the storm.

HC judge initiates criminal contempt action against Kejriwal, AAP leaders

NEW DELHI, PTI: Delhi High Court judge Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma on Thursday initiated criminal contempt proceedings against AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh, Saurabh Bhardwaj and others over their "vilifying" social media posts against her in relation to the excise policy case.

Justice Sharma said the former Delhi chief minister "orchestrated a calculated campaign" of vilification against her on social media instead of pursuing his legal remedies and clarified that the CBI's petition against the discharge of all accused persons would now be taken up by another bench.

The judge took exception to several social media posts by the proposed contemnors that attributed "political allegiance" to her and allegedly targeted her by posting a misleading "edited" video of a speech given by her at an educational institution in Varanasi.

"Arvind Kejriwal sought to destroy my reputation instead of availing legal remedies after I refused to recuse and a deliberate attempt to lower the court's authority can't be permitted in guise of free speech," Justice Sharma said.

> Arvind Kejriwal orchestrated a calculated campaign of vilification and intimidation. Instead of challenging the order of recusal in accordance with law before the Supreme Court, he sought to destroy the reputation of a sitting judge i.e. me and the institution.
> **JUSTICE SWARANA KANTA SHARMA**

> Truth has triumphed. Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha has triumphed once again.
> **ARVIND KEJRIWAL**

She clarified that she was not "recusing" herself but was only transferring the case to another bench since she has initiated the contempt proceedings and Kejriwal and others may later allege a "personal grudge".

'Truth has triumphed'

Reacting to the development, Kejriwal said, "Truth has triumphed. Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha has triumphed once again."

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Atishi termed the development a "big victory" for Kejriwal and said Justice Sharma has "finally recused" from hearing the excise-policy case.

AAP national media incharge Anurag Dhanda also described the development as a big victory for Kejriwal, claiming that the party had consistently maintained that the judge should not hear the matter due to an alleged conflict of interest.

The BJP targeted Kejriwal and said the AAP has crossed a "dangerous line" and should pay a "legal price" for it.

Central agencies to verify DA complaint against Rahul

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court has directed the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate to examine allegations of disproportionate assets against Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi.

Rahul Gandhi

A division bench comprising Justices Rajesh Singh Chauhan and Zafeer Ahmed passed the order on a petition by BJP worker Shishir Vignesh.

Though the matter was heard by the court in its chambers on Tuesday, the order was uploaded on its website on Thursday. The court fixed July 20 for further hearing.

The court allowed Vignesh's request for impleadment of the Department of Personnel and Training, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the Director of Serious Fraud Investigation Office, among others.

The CBI, through its counsel, informed the court that a complaint had been received and that it would file a response within eight weeks.

Andhra & Delhi govts decide on austerity steps

HYDERABAD, DHNS: State governments across the country are resorting to austerity measures following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for national restraint amid the West Asia crisis.

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has resolved that public representatives and officials will adopt voluntary austerity measures.

The state Minister for Information, Public Relations and Housing, Kollu Parthasarathy, said on Thursday that voluntary reductions in official vehicle convoys, virtual meetings and weekly "No Vehicle Day" are being encouraged.

The minister cautioned that exports of bananas, paddy and other horticultural produce could be disrupted by the crisis, making it all the more important for public representatives and officials to lead by example.

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis rides a two-wheeler, in view of the Prime Minister's appeal for austerity, in Mumbai on Thursday. PTI

"When the country faces difficult times, we must stand united and overcome hardships together," he said.

On the energy and transport front, the minister outlined a range of steps the government intends to pursue. All future government vehicle purchases will be restricted to electric vehicles, and fuel consumption across state departments will be minimised.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has also reduced her official convoy size by around 60%, with the carcade now comprising four vehicles, including two EVs.

The petrol and diesel quota of official vehicles of the government will be cut down by 20%, capped currently at 250 and 200 litres to 200 and 160 litres, respectively. However, the travel allowance of government employees will be increased by 10%, she said.

She further announced that all official foreign visits by Delhi ministers would remain cancelled for one year and that the government would not organise any major events for the next three months.

(With PTI inputs)

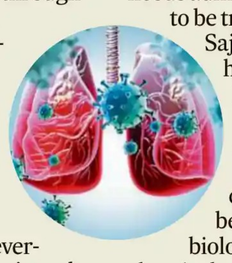
RS 3.7-LAKH TREATMENT

Now, lung cancer therapy in just 7 minutes

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

One of the world's pharmaceutical majors on Thursday launched in India an expensive-but-effective lung cancer therapy that needs only seven minutes to administer through an under-the-skin injection, compared to regular intravenous (IV) infusions that take hours.

Each dose of this immunotherapy from Roche Pharma would cost Rs 3.7 lakh, and patients would require three to six dosages depending on the severity of the disease, said oncologists who have been prescribing the treatment to some of their patients.



The medicine, atezolizumab, can either be an adjunct to a chemotherapy regimen or be given separately. It received approval from the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation for India launch nearly two years after the company released it in Europe and the US.

"Immunotherapy has transformed the treatment landscape for cancer patients, but conventional IV infusion can be long and arduous. The subcutaneous administration allows patients to be treated more quickly," said Sajjan Rajpurohit, director and head of medical oncology at Medanta Hospital.

An IV version of the same medicine is also available.

Immunotherapy medicines are highly expensive because they are complex biological products rather than chemical molecules.

While their production requires highly specialised manufacturing and strong research, these medicines are under strong patent protection, which in turn raises their prices.

Immunotherapy was introduced in India in 2016. While their prices have come down substantially in the last decade, they are still out of reach for the majority of cancer patients in India.

"Such therapies may come under private medical insurance policies only if the policy supports 'modern therapies' for which the premium amount is higher," said Rajpurohit, noting that without insurance support, the majority of lung-cancer patients in India might not be able to afford it.

The Central Government Health Services (CGHS) scheme includes this therapy among the medicines that CGHS beneficiaries can avail.

Every year, around 80,000 lung cancer cases are detected in India, of which nearly 40-50% are diagnosed at an advanced stage.

Also, around 30% seek care in government institutes.

Company officials said there were patient support schemes to provide financial relief to people opting for this therapy. But they refused to divulge the details of such support programmes.

BJP questions Rahul's foreign trip funding

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP on Thursday mounted a sharp attack on Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, making public details of his 54 foreign trips over the past 22 years and questioning the source of funding for travel expenditure.

The BJP claimed that the spending on these trips ran to nearly Rs 60 crore, which was roughly five times his declared income for the period.

Bengaluru Friday, May 15, 2026 Pages 20 Vol 79 No 134 ₹7

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'Air India's loss at over Rs 26k crore in 2025–26 fiscal'

Page 11

Satheesan to be Kerala CM as Cong ends suspense

Party goes by 'public support' amid KC, Chennithala challenge

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Brushing aside the claims of senior leaders K C Venugopal and Ramesh Chennithala, the Congress on Thursday chose a younger V D Satheesan as the next Kerala Chief Minister after considering his support among the public and his performance as Opposition leader in the state.

The decision was announced here at a press conference by Congress' Kerala in-charge Deepa Dasmunsi, soon after leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi concluded his nearly two-and-half-hour meeting with Venugopal, who is also General Secretary (Organisation).

While Venugopal was claiming the support of a majority of MLAs and Chennithala highlighting his seniority, what turned the tables for Satheesan was the outpouring of public support for him after the results as well as the endorsement of allies, including the Muslim League.

The announcement capped days of suspense as the three contenders were unwilling to cede space and insisted on their arguments with the high command.

The first meeting Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi had with the three contenders did not break the deadlock, amid demonstrations taking place in favour of Satheesan.

Satheesan called on Kerala Governor Rajendra Arlekar in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday staking claim to form the government. Satheesan's swearing-in ceremony is scheduled to be held on May 18.

Earlier the Congress legislature party met and formally elected him as the leader. Chennithala, who was reportedly upset over losing the race for the chief minister's post, was not present at the CLP meeting.

▸ Satheesan, Page 6

Kerala Chief Minister-designate VD Satheesan speaks to the media, in Thiruvananthapuram, on Thursday. PTI

> "I do not see this as a personal achievement but as something divine.
> **V D SATHEESAN**
> Kerala CM-elect

Bumpy ride ahead for govt

V D Satheesan's victory in the race to Kerala CM's post kicked off celebrations, even as a bumpy ride is likely for the new government amid resentment from supporters of K C Venugopal and Ramesh Chennithala. P7

ANALYSIS

Factors that swayed decision

Apprehensions in the party about a possible negative outcome from a bypoll in Alappuzha Lok Sabha seat if K C Venugopal is chosen and the "organic" nature of demonstrations were among the reasons that tilted the balance in favour of V D Satheesan.
Details on Page 7

Firewood still fuels most kitchens in state, finds study

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Only about 30% of households in Karnataka cook exclusively with LPG, while the rest still rely partly on firewood despite years of subsidy-driven gas connections, according to a government-backed study conducted before the West Asia war disrupted energy supplies.

The study, published by the state government in March, evaluated the Mukhya Mantri Anila Bhagya Yojane (MMABY), Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's brainchild that countered Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Ujjwala scheme.

'Gas Bhagya' status
Mukhya Mantri Anila Bhagya Yojane Households

Division	LPG only	LPG+ firewood	Firewood only	Phase-1 target of scheme: One lakh households
Bengaluru	17.12%	70.98%	11.90%	
Mysuru	57.91%	42.09%	-	
Belagavi	38.50%	61.43%	0.07%	
Kalaburagi	7.62%	85.04%	7.34%	
State total	29.77%	65.98%	4.26%	Coverage: 98,685

Source: Evaluation of the MMABY in Karnataka (2017-18 to 2024)

Under the first phase, the MMABY reached 98.7% out of the targeted one lakh households.

Each household received an LPG connection, a two-burner stove and the first refill free of cost. The study, done by Bihar-based TransRural Consulting, covered 4,018 beneficiaries in the 2017-2024 period.

Before the scheme, firewood was the predominant source of energy used by 75.5% of households statewide.

▸ LPG, Page 6

SIR: House visits to start in Karnataka from June 30

Voter roll revision in 19 states & UTs begins from May 30

NEW DELHI, DHNS

In the third phase of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in the country, Karnataka and 18 other states and Union Territories will undergo the exercise in a staggered manner, starting on May 30 and culminating with the publication of the final voters' list between September and December.

The process will be undertaken in different states on different dates, as around 3.94 lakh Booth Level Officers (BLOs), assisted by 3.42 lakh Booth Level Agents (BLAs) appointed by political parties, will go house to house to verify 36.73 crore voters during the enumeration phase.

For Karnataka, the qualifying date of SIR has been fixed on October 1, which means that all those who completed 18 years on that day become eligible to be part of the final electoral roll. While the preparation, training and printing of enumeration forms will be undertaken between June 20 and 29 in the state, the house-to-house visits by BLOs will be between June 30 and July 29.

The publication of draft electoral rolls has been fixed for August 5 in Karnataka while people can file claims and objections between August 5 and September 4. The final rolls will be published on October 7.

In the third phase, 16 states and three UTs — Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Telangana, Punjab, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Delhi, Nagaland and Tripura — will undergo the SIR.

▸ SIR, Page 6

SIR timeline in state

- Qualifying date of SIR: Oct 1
- Training and printing of enumeration forms: June 20-29
- House-to-house visits by BLOs: June 30 - July 29
- Publication of draft electoral rolls: Aug 5
- Window to file claims and objections: Aug 5 - Sept 4
- Notices to dispose of claims and objections: Aug 5 - Oct 3
- Final rolls to be published: Oct 7

Govt puts 100-kg cap on gold import scheme

NEW DELHI, PTI: A day after significantly increasing the import duty on precious metals, the government on Thursday imposed a limit of 100 kg on gold imports under the advance authorisation scheme, which allows jewellery exporters to import raw or input materials at zero duty.

The government has tightened the conditions for issuing and monitoring advance authorisation for the import of gold. Earlier, there was no limit on gold imports under the scheme.
Details on Page 11

'Peace can't be piecemeal': EAM slams US over Iran, Russia sanctions

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Peace cannot be piecemeal, India stressed on Thursday, expressing concern over the West Asia conflict and calling for upholding international law. It also tacitly hit out at the US for resorting to "unilateral" sanctions against Iran and Russia as well as against other nations doing business with them.

In his address at the opening day of a two-day BRICS conclave in New Delhi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also stressed the need for safe and unimpeded trade flow through international waterways, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea.

New Delhi's denouncement of the unilateral sanctions imposed by the US and the rest of the West came just ahead of the waiver granted by the Donald Trump administration for India to buy oil already shipped from Russia coming to an end on Saturday.

The six-month extension to the 2018 waiver granted by the Trump administration to allow India to continue its role in the operations of the Chabahar port in Iran already ended on April 30.

With India being the chair of the BRICS, Jaishankar hosted the foreign ministers and the heads of delegations of the 11-nation bloc at the national capital.

▸ BRICS, Page 6

External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

Iran blames UAE for 'active' role in war

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has accused the UAE of playing an active role in the US-Israeli war against his country. "The UAE is an active partner in this aggression, and there is no doubt about it," Araghchi said.

The huddle, however, came under the shadow of the West Asia conflict, with the war of words between Tehran and Abu Dhabi escalating in the wake of reports that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had secretly visited the UAE during the conflict that began on February 28.

▸ BRICS, Page 6

Only independent EC can ensure free, fair polls: SC

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court on Thursday said free and fair elections are a part of the basic structure of the Constitution, and this cannot be ensured unless the Election Commission is independent and also appears to be independent.

A bench comprising Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma made the observations during the hearing on petitions challenging the constitutional validity of a new law governing the appointment of the CEC and the Election Commissioners (EC).
Facing Page

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Hijab order too late, say Muslim groups, flag Cong's unkept promises

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Siddaramaiah government's withdrawal of the 2022 hijab ban order is being dubbed "minority appeasement" by the Opposition BJP. But coming three years after government formation, the decision has not impressed the Muslim community.

It is "too little, too late" and perhaps a "damage-control" measure after the Davangere South bypoll shocker, where the Muslim vote split over ticket denial, they say.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka alleged that the Congress revived the hijab issue as a "desperate appeasement strategy" following the Davangere bypoll fallout and growing resentment among minority voters.

A section of the Muslim community — Jamaat-e-Islami Hind — welcomed the move, saying it would help Muslim girls pursue studies without fear or uncertainty.

However, a federation of Muslim organisations allege the Congress is only trying to pacify them as it has not fulfilled its poll promises — from revoking the anti-cow slaughter law, anti-conversion law, allocation of Rs 10,000 crore for minority welfare, restoring 4% reservation under category 2B, to a crackdown on communal organisations spreading hatred.

▸ Hijab order, Page 6

'Girls may have quit studies'

Nearly 50% of the 145 Muslim girls who had dropped out from colleges in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts for being prevented from wearing the hijab, may not continue their studies as they had already been married, say college principals.
Details on Page 5

WEATHER FURY

Storm, rain kill 111 in UP

Severe storms and heavy rains that struck several parts of Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday claimed the lives of more than 111 people and left over 72 injured, leaving behind a trail of destruction. Varanasi, Prayagraj and Kanpur divisions were worst hit.

TIGHT MEASURE

Ban on sugar exports till Sept

India has imposed a ban on sugar exports until September 30 to ensure sufficient domestic supply and prevent any sudden spike in prices amid hardening inflationary pressures. The ban applies to raw sugar, white sugar and refined sugar.

P 11

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Another delivery executive turns violent; advocate assaulted

Heated argument breaks out after calls seeking location details go unanswered

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Despite repeated warnings from the Bengaluru City Police over rising complaints against delivery personnel, incidents of assault and misbehaviour by grocery delivery executives continue to surface across the city.

In the latest instance, a 29-year-old advocate was allegedly assaulted by a Zepto delivery executive at MSR Nagar in Sadashivanagar.

The incident took place on Monday at 8 pm when the delivery executive arrived to hand over an order. The customer allegedly did not answer repeated calls made by the executive about the delivery location. This triggered a heated argument at the doorstep.

During the altercation, the delivery executive abused the customer, allegedly assaulted him and fled. The victim was admitted to a private hospital.

After being discharged on Tuesday, he approached the Sadashivanagar police and filed a complaint.

According to a senior police officer, the advocate tried to escape and acted in self-defence during the attack.

The accused, identified as Harsha KS, punched him in the face and fled. Police are tracking him using details registered on the Zepto platform. He is currently absconding and his phone remains switched off.

The case comes months after Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh convened a meeting with representatives of major delivery platforms, including Zepto, Swiggy, Zomato and Blinkit, following a rise in complaints of road rage, assault, harassment and misbehaviour by delivery staff.

Swiggy, Zomato account for majority of cases

Zomato tops the list with 13 cases, followed by Swiggy with 11 cases over three years. Together, the two food delivery giants accounted for nearly 55% of all registered cases. Zepto recorded six cases, while Blinkit accounted for five.

Delivery app crimes raise red flags

The sharp rise in criminal cases involving food and grocery delivery aggregators in 2025 reflects not just isolated crimes, but growing pressure and vulnerabilities within the city's expanding gig economy.

Police data accessed by DH shows 44 cases were registered against delivery executives and associated accused between 2023 and 2025. Of these, 24 cases, more than 54%, were reported in 2025 alone, indicating a steep year-on-year escalation.

Police officials said the increase partly reflects the volume of delivery riders on the city roads.

Investigators also point to increasing instances of aggressive behaviour, molestation, rash riding, robberies, assaults and disputes during deliveries.

Complainant gets rape threats from bike taxi captain

BENGALURU, DHNS: A Rapido bike taxi captain has been booked for allegedly sending kidnap and rape threats to a 26-year-old woman through Google Pay after she complained about his behaviour during a ride.

The complainant, an IT professional from Uttarakhand, booked a Rapido bike ride to her home at Nallurahalli on May 11.

She noticed reckless driving and felt uncomfortable during the trip. She asked the rider to stop midway at Doddanekundi, but completed the ride and paid through Google Pay. She later filed a complaint against the rider through the Rapido app, following which Rapido blocked him from the platform.

Enraged, he allegedly began sending abusive and threatening messages to the woman through the same Google Pay account used for the transaction, threatening to kidnap and rape her. She lodged a complaint at the HAL police station.

"We are examining the digital evidence, including the messages sent through Google Pay. The account belongs to one Basavaraj Meti, while the rider's name was shown as Himanshu Megalur in the Rapido app. Efforts are on to nab the suspect," police said.

BDA picks 2 infra firms for short tunnel, elevated road projects

Sparks questions amid allegations of bypassing BMLTA

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has selected two construction firms for a proposed short tunnel and an elevated road between Hebbal and Mehkri Circle on Ballari Road, at a combined estimated cost of around Rs 1,580 crore.

The development comes even as concerns are being raised over the BDA allegedly bypassing the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA), whose approval is mandatory for mobility projects in the city.

According to details accessed by *DH*, Hyderabad-based Rithwik Projects Ltd has emerged as the lowest bidder for the construction of a 2.2-km, three-lane bi-directional underpass that will pass through the campus of the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University in Hebbal. AMR India Ltd is the joint venture partner for the project.

The company quoted Rs 1,139.67 crore, around 4.8% higher than the BDA's estimated project cost.

The tender attracted four bidders, including Dilip Buildcon and Max Infra (I) Pvt Ltd.

Officials said that CemIndia Projects also participated initially, but later went incommunicado.

The BDA has also completed the tendering process for a four-lane elevated corridor from the UAS Staff Quarters to Mehkri Circle on Ballari Road, along with ramps connecting it to the proposed East-West elevated corridor.

Sources said Hyderabad-based Auro Infra Pvt Ltd, formerly known as Aurobindo Realty and Infrastructure, has emerged as the lowest bidder for the project after quoting Rs 440.01 crore.

WHO BID WHAT?

Short tunnel road
- **Rithwik-AMRIL (JV):** Rs 1,139.67 cr (lowest bidder)
- **Max Infra (I) Pvt Ltd:** Rs 1,158.13 cr
- **Dilip Buildcon:** Rs 1,189.64 cr

Elevated road
- **Aurobindo Realty and Infrastructure:** Rs 440.01 cr (lowest bidder)
- **Dilip Buildcon:** Rs 453.36 cr

Concerns raised

Questions over the utility of the projects were initially raised by the Finance Department itself.

Officials reportedly described the proposals as high-cost and warned that they could create fresh traffic bottlenecks after completion. The department returned the file without granting approval.

Subsequently, officials from the Urban Development Department (UDD) and the BDA defended the projects, arguing that land acquisition for road widening was nearly impossible. They also maintained that the proposed elevated corridor would help address potential bottlenecks at Mehkri Circle.

Mobility expert Satya Arikutharam said the BDA could not proceed with such projects without obtaining approval from the BMLTA.

"What we know is that the BDA has not taken approval as required," he said, adding that Bengaluru's citizens "cannot be taken for a ride anymore".

"The government is justifying the short tunnel because the longer tunnel takes 10 years to build. It justifies the longer tunnel by claiming the short tunnel is insufficient. This is shameful." He also alleged that the short tunnel project could be aimed at acquiring veterinary college land and jeopardising the proposed Hebbal-Sarjapura Metro line.

Citizens urged to report unsafe structures

BENGALURU, DHNS: Following the collapse of a wall behind Bowring Hospital that claimed several lives, the Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) has appealed to residents to report public or private buildings, including compound walls, that are dilapidated or at risk of collapse.

In a public notice issued on Thursday, the civic body said officials would conduct immediate inspections upon receiving complaints and initiate appropriate legal action to ensure public safety.

The corporation urged citizens to cooperate in identifying dangerous structures to help prevent accidents and potential disasters in the city.

Residents can report such structures through the BCCC helpline at 9480685702. The other four corporations have also issued similar appeals.

Senior bureaucrats inspect Bowring Hospital

BENGALURU, DHNS

Top government officials, including Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, on Thursday inspected the site at Bowring Hospital in Shivajinagar where seven people were killed after a compound wall collapsed.

Officials later visited the hospital to review its operations.

During the visit, Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department Tushar Giri Nath; Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Health and Family Welfare Department (Medical Education) Mohammad Mohsin; Commissioner of Bengaluru City Central Corporation Rajendra Cholan; Zonal Joint Commissioner Hemant Sharan; Chief Engineer Vijay Kumar Haridas and other officials were present.

On April 29, seven people died after a compound wall at the Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital collapsed during heavy pre-monsoon rain and strong winds.

Most of the victims were local vendors who had taken shelter near the wall.

The collapse was attributed to the dumping of large quantities of construction debris against the wall, which reportedly weakened the structure before it gave way during the rain.

Following the incident, the government suspended engineers from both the Health Department and the Central City Corporation for alleged negligence.

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh inspects the site at Bowring Hospital in Shivajinagar where seven people were killed in a compound wall collapse, on Thursday.

Ajaneesh Loknath live concert tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: A live Kannada music concert featuring the compositions of music director and composer B Ajaneesh Loknath will be held at Bhartiya Mall on Saturday.

Titled 'B Ajaneesh Loknath Live in Bengaluru', the event is billed as one of the first large-scale Kannada cinematic music experiences of its kind, combining live orchestration, immersive visuals, cinematic stage production and performances of some of Loknath's most iconic compositions, according to a press release.

The concert will feature performances by singers Vijay Prakash, Mangli, Nakash Aziz, Ananya Bhatt, Sanvi Sudeep, Sanjith Hegde, Harishankar, Abby, Vasuki Vaibhav, Anirudh, Iswarya, Ramdoss, Sai Vignesh, Harishika and Bobby, along with several other artists associated with Loknath's musical journey.

Additional artist announcements and celebrity appearances will be revealed soon, the release added.

GBA conducts meeting to assess rain preparedness

BENGALURU, DHNS: With the monsoon season approaching, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) on Thursday reviewed the city's rain preparedness and directed all civic bodies to immediately organise "PRAHARI" vehicle parades and strengthen emergency response systems across Bengaluru.

Chairing a coordination meeting at the GBA head office, Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao instructed commissioners of all city corporations to be prepared to tackle flooding, waterlogging, fallen trees and other rain-related emergencies during the monsoon.

Rao also ordered a review of control rooms to ensure adequate staffing, communication systems and emergency arrangements are in place to enable swift responses during heavy rainfall and flood situations.

Special focus was placed on railway underpasses and other low-lying areas prone to flooding.

Vulnerable stretches

Officials from the city corporations and the Railways have been asked to jointly inspect vulnerable stretches.

The GBA also directed authorities to immediately take up cleaning and desilting of road medians and drains to improve rainwater flow and reduce the risk of flooding.

May 15-21: Telugu Pravachana Yajnam

BENGALURU, DHNS: Brahmasri Samavedam Shanmukha Sarma will present a Telugu Pravachana Yajnam 'Mana Maharshulu' from May 15 to 21 at 6 pm at New Horizon College Auditorium, Outer Ring Road, Marathahalli.

Conference on advanced computing held at Kristu Jayanti

Manpreet Anand, Country Head, EC-Council India, inaugurates the conference in the presence of Fr Dr Augustine George, Vice-Chancellor of Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University), and others.

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University) hosted the 14th International Conference on Current Trends in Advanced Computing 2026 on May 6.

The conference was organised in technical co-sponsorship with the IEEE Bangalore Section and in collaboration with Sophia University, Tokyo.

It brought together academicians, researchers, industry professionals and students to deliberate on emerging developments in computing, Artificial Intelligence and cybersecurity. The event concluded with paper presentations showcasing innovative research across computing domains.

P Vimal Laxman, Scientist 'E' at CDAC, Chennai; Dr S Ramachandran of HFS Research, Bengaluru; Prof Eiko Takaoka of Sophia University; Dr Manish Kumar from RV University; Chalapathi Koneni from the US; Chaitanya Valaparla, Founder and CEO of Flairx Networks, Bengaluru; and Vijai Tirumala, Vice-President of Architecture at Swiss Re, delivered talks and participated in discussions, according to a release.

Guests and faculty members at the 54th College Annual Day celebrations organised by the Seshadripuram College on April 28. Dr Kritika Raj, Associate Professor; Maj Dr Anandappa I, Principal; Raghu Gowda, Content Creator; MS Nataraj, Chairman, Governing Council, Seshadirpuram Educational Trust (SET); Rohini Ananth, actor; Wooday P Krishna, Honorary General Secretary, SET; Henjarappa, vice-president, SET; Shalini Jayakumar, Assistant Professor; and Lt Karthik, NCC Officer, were among those present on the occasion.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Kidwai Surgical Oncology Summit: Dr PS Prabhakaran, Dr Naveen T to attend; Organised by Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology; Dr H M Marigowda Road; 11 am.

Sneha Milana: Swami Veereshananda Saraswati and BV Nagaraj, AN Rammohan Reddy, Narayan Rao R Mane to attend; Organised by BHS Highklu Trust; Nayana Auditorium, JC Road; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

Bharatanatyam recital: Aishani Kamath and Anika to perform; Banashankari Devi Temple; from 6 pm onwards.

Play: Staging of 'Olacharandi Purana'; Written by Gaurish Joshi, directed by Archana Shyam; Organised by Antaranga Tanda; Sevasadan, Malleswaram; from 7.15 pm onwards.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Thunderstorm with rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	34.0°C
Minimum	23.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	86%
Sunset (May 15)	6:37 pm
Sunrise (May 16)	5:55 am
Moonrise	3:29 am
Moonset	4:11 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Road Construction Department, Road Division, Daltonganj.

e-Procurement Tender Notice
e-Tender Ref No-1/RCD/Daltonganj/2026-27/498
Dated: 14.05.2026

1.	Name of Work	IRQP Work of Mohammadganj-Dangwar Road (Total Length-30.40 km) Working Length - 16.00 to 30.40 km for the year 2024-25
2.	Estimated Cost	Rs. 11,91,84,896.00 (Rupees Eleven Crore Ninety One Lacs Eighty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Six Rupees) Only.
3.	Bid Security (Amount)	Rs. 11,92,000.00 (Rupees Eleven Lacs Ninety Two Thousand) Only.
4.	Time of Completion	06 Months
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on Website	23.05.2026, 10:30 AM
6.	Last Date/Time of Online Bid Submission	13.06.2026, 12:00 Noon
7.	Date and Time of Bid opening	15.06.2026, 12:30 PM
8.	Bid (Tender Fee & EMD) Submission Address	Cost of bidding document (for a non refundable fee) & Bid security as indicated shall be payable online through http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
9.	Name & address of officer Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, R.C.D., Road Division, Daltonganj.06562&225019
10.	E-mail Id	eercdmedini-jhr@nic.in
11.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Note : Estimated amount may vary.
For further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders. gov. in.

Executive Engineer
Road Construction Department
Road Division, Daltonganj

PR.NO.379825 Road(26-27):D

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 01/2027/SBC Dated: 08-05-2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender.No	Description in Brief	Tender Due on
L8265846	Design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance of heavy duty reversible type escalator. Qty-02 Nos.	30-05-2026 10:30 Hrs.

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/109/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru
Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Application Notification No. 565/ATVM Facilitator/05/2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications from **Retired Railway Employees / General Public** of Bengaluru Division for Engagement as ATVM facilitator at the following Railway Station over Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway for issuing of Unreserved/General Tickets through ATVM Machine on recharge bonus basis for the period of two years which can be extended to further one year subject to extension of the scheme and satisfaction of the Competent Authority.

Sl.	Station	Station Category	No. of Vacancies for ATVM facilitator
6	Hosur	NSG-4	6

Date and Time of submission of application : From 10:00 Hrs. to 15:00 Hrs. of 15-06-2026. Date and time of opening of application: 15:05 hrs. of 15-06-2026
For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
PUB/111/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Bengaluru
Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

CORRIGENDUM-06 FOR TENDER NOTICE NO.: CON/2026/FEB/03 DATED.: 28-02-2026
Corrigendum No. 06 for Tender Notice No. CON/2026/FEB/03, dated: 28-02-2026 against **Tender No. CE-CON-FT-EPC-2026-04** has been published. For details please visit in website **www.ireps.gov.in.**
CE/Con/LMG Project, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organization
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DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF EMPLOYMENT
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, SHARAM SHAKTI BHAWAN RAFI MARG, NEW DELHI -110 001
Central Employment Exchange
Advt. no-02/2026

Applications are invited from eligible SC/ST jobseekers for (1) Special Coaching (2) 'O' level One year IT training (3) 'O' Level Computer Hardware maintenance training (4) Office Automation, Accounting and Publishing Assistant (5) Computer Application and Business Accounting Associate (6) Cyber Secured Web Development Associate Programme (7) Course on Computer Concepts (8) Foundation of Artificial Intelligence Technology, (9) 3D Printing: Design and Development Fundamentals, which is likely to commence from 01.07.2026

Desirous SC/ST jobseekers may visit **www.ncs.gov.in** or **www.dge.gov.in** under ***What's New*** tab and submit their application to the National Career Service Centre for SC/STs (list may be seen on DGE website or NCS portal) where the candidate is interested for participating in the above said program. Last date for Submission of application to NCSC for SC/ST is **31.05.2026.** Candidates would be considered for only one course. The candidates may indicate their choice of courses in order of their preferences.

CBC 23105/11/0002/2627

THE JUTE CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
Patsan Bhawan,
3rd & 4th Floor, CF Block, Action Area - 1, Kolkata-700156
Phone:033-2252-1100, Fax:033-2252-1771
CIN: U17232WB1971GOI027958

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

The Jute Corporation of India Ltd., a CPSE invites sealed technical and financial proposals from reputed Consulting Firms/Agencies/Institutions to conduct a comprehensive strategic study and develop a roadmap for the expansion of Jute Diversified Products (JDPs). Eligibility criteria and other details are available at JCI's website (**www.jutecorp.in**).

The last date of submission of application is 4th June 2026

CBC 41122/12/0015/2627

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Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Guest of Honour
Sri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Dr. M.C. Sudhakar
Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education
Government of Karnataka

In the August Presence of

Sri Priyank M Kharge
Hon'ble Minister
IT and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Departments
Government of Karnataka

Dr. Sharanaparakash Rudrappa Patil
Hon'ble Minister
for Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Livelihood and Medical Education
Government of Karnataka

Sri M.B. Patil
Hon'ble Minister
Department of Large & medium Industries & Infrastructure Development
Government of Karnataka

Sri N.Cheluvarayaswamy
Hon'ble Minister
of Agriculture Department
Government of Karnataka

Program Chair **Smt. Khushboo Goel Chowdhary, IAS** Secretary to Government Higher Education Department Government of Karnataka

Central Themes of Discussion

- Democratizing AI Skills Across All Disciplines
- Scaling Innovation from Research to Market
- Building Semiconductor & Advanced Manufacturing Excellence
- Strengthening Financial Sector Talent Competitiveness
- Expanding Quality Education Beyond Metropolitan Centers
- Embedding Professional & Interpersonal Skills in Curriculum
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The LaLiT Ashok, Bengaluru

City bakers give mangoes a fresh spin

From tiramisu tarts to zesty pickles, the season is inspiring both desserts and savoury favourites

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

With mango season underway, home chefs in Bengaluru are adding seasonal treats featuring the 'king of fruits' to their menus. While some are experimenting with savoury dishes, desserts remain the main focus, with mango cupcakes, cakes, cheesecakes, and tarts emerging as popular favourites.

Rina Chakravarty, founder of Whitefield-based home venture Sweet Tooth-Do you have one?, has introduced a mango tiramisu tart this season, combining coffee-infused mascarpone cheese filling, coffee-soaked ladyfinger biscuits, and fresh banganapalli mangoes. "You get different flavours together — the bitterness of coffee as well as the sweetness and tartness of the mangoes," she says.

Mango tres leches cake by Deepthi Shyam.

Aamina Azhar, founder of Shanti Nagar-based home venture Sweet Retreat, has introduced mango cheesecake cupcakes. Another signature offering is a fresh cream and mango flan adapted into a celebration cake format. "We converted it into a cake as people wanted it for birthdays and other celebrations," she says.

Deepthi Shyam Koti, founder of Creative Cakery by Deepthi in J P Nagar, has dished out desserts such as mango cheesecakes, ice creams and cakes. She blends varieties such as banganapalli, raspuri and mallika mangoes to balance flavour, colour and texture. Among her latest additions is a mango tres leches cake made with mango-flavoured sponge cake soaked in mango milk and topped with homemade mango compote and fresh fruit.

"I have incorporated mango puree directly into cheesecake batter instead of using it only as a topping," she says.

Gluten-free treat

Sharada Ramesh, founder of The Cupcakes Studio in Basavanagudi, eagerly awaits the mango season every year. From cakes, cupcakes, cheesecakes and mousse desserts to savoury creations, she has experimented with a range of mango-based items in the past. "My latest creations include a sugar-free, gluten-free and vegan mango coconut cream cake, along with a mango jalapeno toastie and a mango cardamom jam. I love creating food that feels comforting, fresh, and a little unexpected at the same time," she says. She has primarily used Ratnagiri Alphonso.

Mango jalapeno toastie by Sharada Ramesh.

Simply savoury

At Nidhii's Kitchen, this year's menu features mango pickles, aam chunda and aam ki launji, based on family recipes passed down through generations. For the pickles, Nidhi Mehta has used small kairi mangoes from her own farm this year. And she is buying totapuri mangoes to make aam ki launji.

EVENTS

Jugalbandi concert
The Mohan Brothers, Lakshay Mohan and Aayush Mohan, will perform a sitar-sarod jugalbandi on May 17, 6 pm, at Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte. Tickets online.

Panel discussion
'Whose Park is it Anyway?' will explore ideas of public space and legitimacy on May 16, 11 am, at BLR Design Centre, Church Street. Check @modfoundation.blr on Instagram.

Art show
An exhibition themed on water and conservation, titled 'Jala', is on view until May 20, 11 am, at Rangoli Metro Art Centre, M G Road. Call 2296 9265.

Egyptian dance
Samai Oriental Dance Company will present 'Leylet Reda II — The Evolution of Theatrical Egyptian Dance', on May 23, 5 pm, at Alliance Francaise. Details on @samaiorientaldancecompany on Instagram.

INSTANT HOME SERVICE WORKERS

Convenience, at whose cost?

In between bookings, some women wait on the streets without toilets or resting spaces

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

In some parts of Bengaluru, it is now common to see women working with instant 'house help' apps waiting in the open for their next booking. They linger within walking distance of the apartment clusters they are assigned to — under trees, beside food stalls, near electricity boxes.

A dozen such women, working with Snabbit, Pronto and Urban Company, told *Metrolife* that while the city's convenience economy pays better than tailoring, cooking, and other jobs they previously held, it offers little comfort in return. They have to put up with heat, dust, unwanted male attention and irritated looks from pedestrians for occupying the footpaths.

They said they would like designated rest areas with facilities such as toilets, drinking water, charging points, and seating.

Creepy men

It has been two months since Neha (name changed) joined one such platform. She previously worked in a food factory, cutting vegetables for Rs 16,000 a month. Now she earns almost Rs 10,000 more. But the 29-year-old from Assam doesn't like "sitting on the road". "Men pass comments, give dirty looks. One man threw a chit with his phone number at me. I got scared and rushed to other women like me waiting on the pavement," she said.

When we met, Neha was sitting on a stone bench opposite a gated society in Yeshwanthpur. The bench, covered with an asbestos sheet, has long been used by autorickshaw drivers plying the route. "When we started sitting here, these men would get angry with us," said another woman who uses the same spot.

Women associated with multiple instant 'house help' apps on a footpath in Yeshwanthpur.

A short distance away on that footpath, two women in burqas sat with their backs against a BESCOM box. They had laid a mat, and propped flex boards on either side to create an enclosure for "some privacy".

They said they had been trained for home support services in Nagawara, where workers were given a room to rest. So when they were assigned to this area a week ago, they were "shocked" to find no such facility. One of them added that the RMC Yard cluster nearby also offers a room, but she does not want to shift there because too many relatives frequent the area, and she does not want them to know about her work.

"We were homemakers. We took up this work because of financial problems. If our families find out that we sit on the footpath, they won't let us work," another woman said, pointing to the piles of discarded tea cups and flies buzzing around them. "There's also a fear of drunk men," she added.

While the apps offer flexible hours, most prefer to work eight-hour shifts, finishing by 7 or 8 pm. They said that bookings can range from just one to five or six a day. They lean against boundary walls or lie down on footpaths to nap — some even carry bedsheets with them. Most begin their day at 4.30 or 5 am, cooking meals and putting their homes in order before leaving for work.

Rs 10 for toilets

Access to toilets and drinking water is another concern. These women said that in the initial days, security guards at apartment complexes would not let them enter unless they had a booking. Some of them were allowed only after their manager submitted an application to the apartments to allow access.

However, Neha pays Rs 10 each time she uses a toilet in the metro station nearby. "It's inconvenient during menstruation," she said.

While they don't hesitate much to ask customers for a glass of water or to charge their phones, they swear they would never use the toilet.

"Recently, I cleaned three bathrooms in a house, and the owner checked on me six times to make sure I hadn't used their toilet," rued a woman.

Citizens also have concerns. Gunjur resident R Prasad said, "Our footpaths are already congested. The platforms must find them a place." Surabhi from Jalahalli said, "These women sit right outside my apartment, in the blind spot of vehicles exiting the building. I fear for their safety."

These women say what softens these inconveniences somewhat is the company of fellow gig workers, regardless of the platform they are attached to. They chat over cups of tea, teach each other Kannada or Hindi to improve customer interactions, look out for one another when someone dozes off, and care for each other's young children when they accept a booking. "But with the rains approaching, it can get difficult," said one worker.

ARE APPS ADDRESSING THESE CONCERNS?

In an email response, Pronto's team said the company has set up hubs equipped with rest areas, drinking water, toilets and charging points within walking distance of apartment clusters. But they refused to share details about the locations or photographs of these hubs, as well as the share of the workforce currently covered by them. However, they added that their Pros (gig workers) receive self-defence training and can be shifted to other clusters if they feel unsafe.

Snabbit is piloting an initiative through the Snabbit Expert app that allows workers to identify nearby rest points. However, a spokesperson clarified that these are "not formal hubs", but partnerships with tea stalls and other neighbourhood establishments where workers can rest and hydrate.

Urban Company did not respond.

MUSEUM DAY

Private museums are beating the odds

Visitors in the Contemporary Expressions Gallery at the Indian Music Experience museum, J P Nagar.

While footfall has grown, infrastructure and budgetary constraints persist

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Despite growing engagement from youngsters seeking immersive, community-driven experiences, private museums in Bengaluru continue to face financial and infrastructural challenges. Ahead of International Museum Day (May 18), *Metrolife* speaks to people in charge of a few museums about how they are keeping the show going.

Lack of funds

J's La Quill Museum on Fort D Street is dedicated to handwriting instruments and writing culture. It is free for visitors. Collector and calligrapher K C Janardhan runs the space largely through personal investment and a charitable trust. He says the trust currently accepts equipment and infrastructure support instead of monetary donations. At present, he manages the museum alone.

What began as a niche space for pen enthusiasts has evolved into an experiential museum that hosts workshops, handwriting courses, and reading events. Blogs, reels, and media coverage have boosted visitors from across India as well as Europe and the US in recent years. He has plans to relocate the museum to a larger space.

"Once we start hiring staff, we will need close to Rs 3 lakh every month for salaries and maintenance," says Janardhan. Currently, the maintenance and infrastructural costs of the museum come up to Rs 6 lakh per year.

Janardhan feels that unlike public museums, which have institutional support and are located in prominent areas, private museums need better signage, cleaner surroundings, and easier access to government grants to become more accessible.

Skewed attention

Preema John, director of the Indian Music Experience museum in J P Nagar, feels philanthropic support must extend beyond the creation of cultural institutions. She says recurring expenses, including operations and programming, "receive far less attention". The museum consistently raises external funds for these areas.

To sustain engagement, the museum plans to introduce VR-based exhibits, galleries dedicated to tribal music traditions, a museum bus project, and a new performance space, says Preema.

At Vimor Museum of Living Textiles in Austin Town, founder Pavithra Muddaya treats textiles as living archives of communities and shared histories.

The museum, which charges an entry fee starting at Rs 300, attracts around 200 to 250 visitors a month. Much of its collection has come through donations of textiles passed down through families, but she bears the overhead costs personally. As the collection expands and requires more space, she is now "considering external funding more seriously".

She believes cultural institutions need greater support from government bodies, such as the tourism board.

Survival woes

The Short Wave Radio Museum in Basaveshwara Nagar is free for visitors. Founder Uday Kalburgi has exhibited nearly 250 radios dating from 1928 to 1967 in a bid to help younger generations understand "what radio meant before the digital age". While the museum attracts students, researchers, and radio enthusiasts from across India and overseas, the 62-year-old says the challenges are many.

University collaborations, he says, rarely translate into financial support. He relies largely on his pension and radio restoration work to sustain the museum. He currently spends around Rs 3 to Rs 5.5 lakh per year on the maintenance and restoration of radios.

To ensure the survival of his collection, he eventually plans to donate it to museums run by Veerendra Heggade in Dharmasthala and Mysuru.

Rural women's labour in focus

SHARON NATASHA
TEAM METROLIFE

Exploring the intersections of climate change, agrarian labour, gender, memory and documentary practice, 'Conversations on Climate, Labour and Belonging: Stories of Labour and Changing Ecology' is a two-day themed programme to be held at the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) this weekend.

Presented in collaboration with the People's Archive of Rural India (PARI) as part of MAP's ongoing exhibition, 'Beneath the Turning Sky', the programme features six events over two days. It will include listening sessions, documentary screenings, portfolio reviews and workshops.

Drawn from PARI's extensive archival material, the series places particular emphasis on women engaged in often undocumented forms of labour across rural India.

The weekend opens with 'Songs of Labour: Living Archives', a listening session by Namita Waikar and Pratishtha Pandya, centred on PARI's Grindmill Songs Project. Other events include documentary screenings on climate and gender, and a photo talk on nomadic pastoral communities.

On May 16-17, at MAP, Kasturba Road. Entry free. For details and registration, visit map-india.org

The event will open with a listening session centred on PARI's Grindmill Songs Project.

Next week: Docu-film on Krumbiegel

TEAM METROLIFE

Heritage Beku and the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) Bengaluru will celebrate 160 years of Lalbagh by screening a documentary on Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel, the man who designed the iconic botanical garden. Titled 'The Maharaja's German Gardener', the film is produced by Inner Eye World Films and MINDIA, and directed by Ganesh Shankar Raj.

It traces the life of Krumbiegel, a visionary German botanist and garden designer who is credited with turning Bengaluru into a 'Garden City'. He was instrumental in introducing serial blossoming, and hence we see the tabebuia, jacaranda and gulmohar blooming sequentially. He also designed the Brindavan Gardens in Mysuru and various royal estates. Krumbiegel Road, which runs alongside Lalbagh, is named in his honour.

On May 22, 4.30 pm, at NGMA, Vasanthnagar. Entry free.

CITY MIX

Don Palathara retrospective opens

Bangalore Film Forum will present a retrospective of independent Malayalam filmmaker Don Palathara from May 15 to 17 at Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan, Indiranagar. The retrospective will screen all his films and trace the evolution of his cinematic language, along with his nuanced exploration of everyday life and local culture. Palathara will also speak about his filmmaking process, approach to performance, and working within constraints. The event will open with a screening of '1956 Central Travancore'.

Details on goethe.de

Graphic novel examines socio-politics of India

A discussion on Aakar Patel and political cartoonist PenPencilDraw's new graphic novel, 'Discovery of New India (Conditions Apply)', will be held on May 17, 11.30 am, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. The novel illustrates the nation's current socio-political and judicial climate. Patel will be in discussion with journalist Priya Ramani about the making of the book and its visual language. A Q&A with the audience will follow.

To RSVP, visit bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

FIND YOUR VIBE

A community for reading Kannada poetry

A literary collective continues to draw diverse readers through its monthly gatherings

VIBHA S BHAT
TEAM METROLIFE

Humans aren't wired for the mad race of big-city life; our brains crave pauses from mindless productivity that drains the soul," says Sourabha Rao, the founder of Padayaatre.

A Kannada literary community, Padayaatre was set up in 2014 when Sourabha sought a circle dedicated to immersing itself in the works of great Kannada poets and writers. She had moved to Bengaluru in mid-2012. Sourabha and her friends had an impromptu Kannada poetry reading session at a mantapa in BTM Layout park one Sunday. There was no structure or title for the gathering. For the last 12 years, Padayaatre has continued to meet one Sunday every month. The meets are either online or offline, and members have the option of joining the offline meets through Zoom or Google Meet.

A session in progress at one of Padayaatre's gatherings.

Diversity is the pulse of the group. Members include engineers, researchers, wildlife conservationists and professors. Some Kannada poets and writers, such as Jayant Kaikini, Sethuram, and S Diwakar, have been guests at Padayaatre. Many non-Kannadigas have also attended the sessions and embraced the rejuvenating poetry and community. Participation has been through word-of-mouth and social media. Since Sourabha resigned from all social media in 2017, the core team has stayed together for 12 years as she continues to send personal messages to each member. The community politely moved away from reading one's own poetry to spending two hours completely immersed in reading Kannada poets, from Pampa to contemporary poets, including P Lankesh, Lakshmisha Tolpadi and Jayant Kaikini, as well as less-known ones. With diverse members, conflicts arise naturally, but Padayaatre handles them with "dignity in disagreement" — healthy, informed exchanges that stay factual, tied to the text, and never personal or slugfest-like, says Sourabha. These talks often end with shared resources, fostering deeper learning.

When asked about Bengaluru's representation in Kannada poetry, she says she wishes there were more writings published about the city, as the lack of literature around it is somewhat disappointing compared to the abundance of literature centred on other cities.

Those interested can get in touch with the group at padayaatre@gmail.com

(Find Your Vibe *is an occasional column that highlights positive community efforts and passion pursuits in Bengaluru. Send your suggestions to metrolife@deccanherald.co.in)*

Audi hit-and-run: Eyewitness quizzed; hunt on for driver

BENGALURU, DHNS: Police are still searching for the driver of an Audi involved in a hit-and-run that killed a 45-year-old man and injured his wife and daughter.

On Thursday, Chikkajala traffic police recorded the statement of an eyewitness, a student at a nearby private college, to gain further leads.

Preliminary findings have ruled out drunk driving.

Mahesh Kumar, a garment factory worker, was killed while returning home with his wife Kala M, 38, and daughter Charvika, 13, after attending a wedding.

The accident occurred around 8.50 pm on Tuesday.

The family, residents of Kodagalahatti, was travelling on an electric scooter when the car hit them on an interior road near the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence, about 7 km from the airport highway.

CCTV cameras in the area captured the accident, but the Audi's high-beam headlights obscured the vehicle's registration number, making identification difficult, police officials said.

Police are scanning footage from multiple routes to track the car's movement before and after the crash.

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: support@deccanherald.co.in

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No.1, Mahayogi Vemana Road, 3rd Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-34.

TENDER NOTICE

Quotations are invited

i) From authorized Microsoft partners for the supply of Microsoft cloud campus agreement for the year 2026-2027 to VIT.

ii) For the supply of 256 Computers, 13 Nos. Smart TV's (65"), Laptop-1, Desktop-4, Laser jet duplex printer 01, Color Ink tank printer-1 and Laser Jet Pro MFP M126nw Printer to VIT & VIPT and Head Office.

For more details, Visit our website **www.reddyjanasangha.org** or
Contact: **080-25534194, 8050133633, or 9886010610**

Quotations should be addressed to "The General Secretary" at the above address within 7 days from this advertisement.

Sd/- **President** Sd/- **General Secretary**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that all that piece and parcel of the Plots bearing Nos. 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40 situated at Museum Road, and Plots bearing Nos. 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60 situated at St. Marks Road, Ward No. 111, Shanthala Nagar, Bengaluru – 560001, hereinafter referred to as the "**Schedule Property**" is the absolute property of our client, V T Velu Investments (P) Ltd., along with its Directors, who have a valid, subsisting and marketable title to the Schedule Property and are in lawful possession thereof.

It has come to our client's knowledge that several unscrupulous third parties/persons are purportedly claiming title and/or interest in the Schedule Property and are attempting to deal with the same, to the exclusion and detriment of our client, by using fabricated documents.

In light of the illegal and surreptitious claims to deal with the Schedule Property, our Client hereby cautions the general public not to deal with, transact with or attempt to negotiate any transaction for sale, lease, mortgage or otherwise in relation to the Schedule Property with any third party/person. Any person/s dealing with or transacting in whatsoever manner in respect of the Schedule Property, despite this Caution Notice shall be doing so entirely at their own risk, and consequences, and any such transaction shall be null and void and shall not confer any right, title or interest whatsoever. Such persons shall be solely liable for all consequences arising therefrom, and any such transaction or dealing shall not bind our Client or affect the Schedule Property in any manner whatsoever. Our client further requests the general public to inform the undersigned Advocate in the event they receive any offer or request from any third party/person seeking to deal with the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

(*Description of the Schedule Property*)

All that piece and parcel of the Plots bearing Nos. 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40 situated at Museum Road, and Plots bearing Nos. 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 and 60 situated at St. Marks Road, Ward No. 111, Shanthala Nagar, Bengaluru – 560001 and bounded as follows:

East by : Museum Road,
West by : St. Marks Road;
North by : Private property; known as Addison and Company Sobha Building and Stracey Memorial School;
South by : Private property known as Mark Square.

Abhijit Atur, Advocate
M/s Agraa Legal,
3rd Floor, Shravanee Krishna Mansion, Ashoka Pillar Road, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru 560011,
Ph: (080) 2962001/02, Email: admin@agraalegal.com

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 15-05-2026

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. Project-SWR-EL-TSS-CT
Dated : 11-05-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Replacement of 200-100/1-1-1-1 A Current Transformer by 400-200/1-1-1-1A Current Transformer at GSS and TSS for capacity enhancement at Mallapur, Basavana Bagevadi Road, Minchnal, Lachyan, Savanur of Hubballi Division, Ramagiri, Tolahunse, Devargudda, Shivamogga Town, Sagar Jambagaru, Honnavalli Road of Mysuru Division and Siddapur Halt of Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 88,48,866.16

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 03-06-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / Project
PUB/121/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Bengaluru**

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka vide F. No. SEIAA 127 CON 2022 dated 05.01.2023 has Issued Environmental Clearance to M/s. DS-Max Properties Private Limited for the Construction of Residential Apartment **"DS Max Shrestha"** located at Survey No. 93 (Old Sy No.55/P49), Bellahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru, Karnataka as per applicable provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and amended thereafter.

Copy of the clearance certificate is available with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board / committee and may also be seen on the website of the Ministry and at **https://parivesh.nic.in**

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

APPOINTMENT OF FACULTY PROFESSORS AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for filling up posts of **Teaching Faculty positions** at **Shillong Medical College, Shillong**, under the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya.

Vacancies exist for the following posts across various disciplines as per National Medical Commission Teachers' Eligibility Qualifications (TEQ) Regulations, 2025:

Department	Professors	Associate Professor
1. Anatomy	-	1
2. Physiology	1	-
3. Pharmacology	1	-
4. Pathology	1	-
5. Microbiology	-	-
6. Forensic Medicine	1	-
7. General Surgery	1	-
8. Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	1

Terms and Conditions

1. **Nature of Appointment:** The appointments shall be made on a **contractual basis**, initially for a period of **one year**, extendable based on performance and requirement of the College.

Remuneration:

Professor: ₹3,20,000/- per month (fixed)

Associate Professor: ₹2,60,000/- per month (fixed)
No additional allowances or benefits shall be admissible.

Eligibility: Candidates must possess the requisite qualifications and teaching experience as prescribed by the *National Medical Commission (NMC)*, TEQ 2025 or as amended from time to time. A proven record of academic excellence, clinical competence, and research experience will be essential.

Mode of Application: Eligible and interested candidates may submit their applications by email to: **shgmedicalcollege@gmail.com**

Last Date for Submission: The online application window shall remain open till **31st May up to 5:00 PM.**

Further Details: Detailed information regarding eligibility criteria, terms of engagement, and selection procedures is available on the official website of the Health & Family Welfare Department: **https://meghealth.gov.in**

MIPR No.: 0455
Dated: 14-05-2026

CORRIGENDUM NO.1

Corrigendum No. 1 for Tender Notice No. N_3_HQ_2026-27. Tender No. N_3_HQ_EPC_EI_2026-27. Name of the work: Provision of Electronic Interlocking at Adina, Azamnagar Road, Khurial, Mangurjan, Tinmilehat, Chatterhat, Sudhani, Telta, Panjipara and Gaisal stations on HDN/HUN route of Katihar Division. **Tender Closing date & Time: 15.00 hrs. on 12-06-2026. Details are as under:**

NIT Header:

Field Name	Existing Date	Modified Date
Tender Closing Date & Time	**17.00** hrs. of **04-06-2026**	**15.00** hrs. of **12-06-2026**
Bidding Start Date	**21-05-2026**	**29-05-2026**

Documents

S. No.	Document Description	File Name
1	Revised Feasibility Report	Feasibility Report 11-05-2026.pdf
2	Annexure A	Annexure- APreBid.pdf
3	Revised Request for Proposal	RFPKatihar11-05-2026forIREPS.pdf

Tender Documents

S. No.	File Name	Document Description
1	FeasibilityReport16.04.2026.pdf	Feasibility Report
2	RFPKatihar16.04.2026for IREPS_1.pdf	Request for Proposal

For details please visit N.F. Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in**
General Manager (S&T), Maligaon

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CBC 09101/13/0012/2627

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Application Notification No. 565/STBA/05/2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for Engagement of Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBA) at the following Railway stations over Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway for issuing of Unreserved/General Tickets through Unreserved Ticket System (UTS) on commission basis for the period as mentioned against the station:

Sl.	Name of the Station	Station Code	Station Category	Period of contract
1	Hosur	HSRA	NSG-4	As per the Policy Guidelines received from Railway Board
2	Dharmapuri	DPJ	NSG-5	3 years

Date and Time of submission of application : From 10:00 Hrs. to 15:00 Hrs. of 15-06-2026. Date and time of opening of application: 15:05 hrs. of 15-06-2026

For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUB/110/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Bengaluru**

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division E-Tender Notice No. SA-TRD-2026-27-159
Dated : 13.05.2026

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer / Traction and Distribution branch / Salem Division, Salem - 5 for and on behalf of the President of India invites **ONLINE** tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for works in Salem Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tender will be accepted. It is the responsibility of Tenderer(s) / Contractor(s) to obtain Digital Signature certificates for participating e-tendering.

1. Tender No. SA-TRD-2026-27-159-1
Name of work : Modification to OHE in connection with Raising / Extension thhe existing RI / ML PF to HL PF (NSG6 category stns) of ANU, CV PV, TMP, IGR, VZ & UKL in SGE-ED-TUP Section

Approximate value of the work (Rs. in Lakh) :Rs. 210.46

Cost of Tender form Rs. : 0/-

Amount of EMD Rs. 255200/-

Completion period of work : 6 Months

1. Tender No. SA-TRD-2026-27-159-2
Name of work : Modification of OHE in connection with removal of signaling constraints Coimbatore Junction.

Approximate value of the work (Rs. in Lakh) :Rs. 23.42

Cost of Tender form Rs. : 0/-

Amount of EMD Rs. 46900/-

Completion period of work : 6 Months

Sl. No. 1 & 2 Tender closing Date and Time : 15.06.2026 at 14.30 hrs. Complete details of the above tenders are given on the e-portal **"www.ireps.gov.in"**

For Details of bid submission, Please refer website portal "**www.ireps.gov.in"**. The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed.

Dated : 13.05.2026 **Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction Distribution, Salem .**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice No. BE-29-2026-27-OT-01 (Through E-Tendering)

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Tender No	Description in Work	Approx. Value	Tender Closing Date Time
BE-29-2026 -27-OT-01	**1)** Bengaluru-Tumakuru -Sampige Road Section- Proposed construction of ROB at LC.No. 50 @KM:85/700-800 42m composite Girder **2)** Proposed construction of RUB at LC gate No.48 @kM 81/500-600 between Mallasandra and Gubbi stations in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Yasvantpur sub division **3)** Bengaluru-Tumakuru - Sampige Road Section-Proposed limited height subway at old LC43 (RUB N0.297 B At KM:73/000-100 near Bheemasandra - RCC box of size 1x5x2.25 by rolling/ launching method **4)** Yasvantpur-Sampige Road Section-Proposed subway at old Shettyhalli gate KM 67/700-800 near Shettyhalli- (Bridge No.308-D) RCC box of size 1x4x2.25 by rolling/launching method **5)** Provision of Lifts at Gauribidanur Railway station for PF-1 & PF2 & 3 **6)** Provision of two escalators (down direction) at PF-1 & PF-2&3 of Kengeri railway station (PID: 14.01.53.25.3.50.008) **7)** Jolarpettai-Bengaluru Section- Proposed Pedestrian subways to facilitate crossing of railway alignment by cattle, pedestrians and smaller vehicles in various locations as RCC Box of size 1x5mx2.65m (Barrel length = 18.36 mtrs) by Rolling/Launching method **8)** Bengaluru-Sampige Road Section- Proposed Pedestrian subways to facilitate crossing of railway alignment by cattle, pedestrians and smaller vehicles in various locations as RCC Box of size 1x5mx2.65m (Barrel length = 18.36 mtrs) by Rolling/Launching method (total 11 Nos) **9)** Yasvantpur-Yelahanka Section- Proposed pedestrain subway at Sahakara Nagara at Km 13/200-300 near NTI layout-RCC box of size 1x4x2.25 by rolling/launching method in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Yasvantpur sub-Division **10)** Provision of DG sets at Running Rooms and crew rest rooms over Bengaluru Division **11)** Improvement of illumination in tunnel (600m length) near TASA at KM 42/750 - 43/350 - Electrical arrangements **12)** Bengaluru-Sampige Road Section - Proposed extension of FOB at Nidvanda station to accommodate Road-1A with stair & lift **13)** Implementation of Investment Grade Energy Audit (IGEA) recommendations at 30 locations over Bengaluru Division.	**Rs. 1,52,42,705.54**	**29-05-2026 / 15:00 Hrs.**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in, Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

PUB/116/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General /Bengaluru**

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GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
SPORTS AUTHORITY OF JHARKHAND
(DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, ART-CULTURE, SPORTS & YOUTH AFFAIR'S)
Gate No. 29-30, Birsa Munda Football Stadium, Morhabadi, Ranchi

Short e-TENDER NOTICE
Notice No. 43, Dated : 14/05/2026

e-Tenders in two parts Part-I (Technical and Commercial) and Part-II (price part) are invited from the reputed tenderers having good experience of following similar type works and having sound financial status:

NIT No.	Name of the works	Estimated cost in Rs./-	Earnest money to be deposited in Rs./-	Cost of BOQ (Non-Refundable) in Rs./-	Time of completion of work.
01/PR/SAJH A /2026-27	Special Repair, Maintenance and Some New Construction work at Birsa Munda Football Stadium, Morabadi, Ranchi.	4,72,60,188/-	4,73,000/-	10,000/-	30 Days

Date of Publication of Tender on Website	15/05/2026 at 5.00 PM
Start Date of Submission of Bids	15/05/2026 at 6.00 PM
Last Date/Time of Submission of Bids	28/05/2026 at 5.00 PM
Date/Time of opening of Bid (Technical Part)	29/05/2026 at 3.30 PM
Date and Time for opening of Tender Part -II (Price Part)	Will be Communicated later on
Tendering Officer and address for communication	Executive Director office, SAJHA, Morabadi, Ranchi

1. e-Tender documents and BOQ including terms & conditions, specification etc. can be downloaded and submitted online on website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
2. Cost of bidding document for a non-refundable fee & Bid Security (EMD) shall be payable online through http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
3. Any Changes or any other information can be seen on http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
4. The undersigned reserves the right to extend the date of submission and opening of tender/distribute the works among the tenderers or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof

Sd./-
Executive Director
Sports Authority of Jharkhand

PR 379806 (Art Culture Sports and Youth Affairs)26-27*D

PUBLIC NOTICE - E-AUCTION
RELIABLE CASHEW COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED IN LIQUIDATION (RCCPL)
under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016

E-AUCTION
Sale of Assets under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
Dates E-Auction: 03.06.2026

Pursuant to the Order of the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Chennai vide its order dated 09.08.2024 in the matter of Reliable Cashew Company Private Limited (In Liquidation), the undersigned is inviting bids for sale of assets owned by RCCPL forming part of the liquidation estate under section 35(f) of IBC, 2016 .The said Assets will be sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS ", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" and "NO RECOURSE BASIS".**

The Sale will be done by the undersigned through the E-Auction platform at the web portal https://ibbi.baanknet.com/eauction-ibbi/home Brief particulars of the sale are as follows:

Set of Assets	Assets	Reserve Price (In INR)	EMD Amount (In INR)
	Category A -Sale of Non-core assets (only land parcels) Date and Time of e-auction: 03.06.2026 at 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM		
Asset Set 1	All the piece and parcel of a commercial plot at R.S.No.110/3, measuring 3.17 Acres situated in Bramhawar, Udupi	**2.03 Crores**	**0.203 Crores**
	Category B Sale of Movable Assets at leased premises Date and Time of e-auction: 03.06.2026 at 01.00 PM to 2.00 PM		
Asset Set 2	Plant and Machinery together with a Vehicle located at D. No, 12/92 and 12/93, Padavu Post, Shakti Nagar, Kulshekar, Mangaluru, Karnataka	**29.00 Lakhs**	**2.90 Lakhs**
	Category C Sale of Immovable Assets Date and Time of e-auction: 03.06.2026 03.00 PM to 04.00 PM		
Asset Set 3	**Immovable Asset (Land & Building)** All the piece and parcels of the land measuring 100 cents, situated at, S.No.291/9P1, Kolalgiri, Uppoor Village, Udupi Taluk , Karnataka together with building	**1.33 Crores**	**0.133 Crores**

1. This Sale Notice shall be read with the Complete 'e-Auction Process Information Document' (Process Document) containing details of the Assets, eligibility, E-Auction Bid Form etc which is available at https://ibbi.baanknet.com/eauction-ibbi/home or can contact the Liquidator for further details.
2. Interested bidders for the respective Category(ies) and/or Set of Asset(s) are required to submit the eligibility documents and EMD on or before **01.06.2026** as provided in the Process Document through the electronic platform only.
3. The Liquidator reserves the right to amend the key terms of the sale process including timelines for any or all Category(ies) and/or Set of Assets(s) being sold in the e-auction, to the extent permissible under the applicable laws and regulations. Any information about the amendments/ extensions of any of the timelines with respect to the sale process timelines for any or all category(ies) and/or Set of Assets (s) will be available on the e-auction website and communicated to the Eligible/Qualified/Successful Bidder(s).
4. Prospective bidders shall deposit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) through the Baanknet auction platform only. If the bidder is found ineligible, EMD shall be liable to be forfeited.

   Nothing contained herein shall constitute a binding offer or commitment for sale of assets of the Company.

Please scan the QR code below to download a Teaser Document.

Date: 14.05.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Ravindra Beleyur
Liquidator
Reliable Cashew Company Private Limited in Liquidation
'428,19th B Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 11
email:Reliable_Cashew_CIRP@beleyur.com
Phone: 080 26540193 Mobile: +91 94481 46963

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His presence always in our hearts.
Lovingly Remembered by: Wife, Daughter's,
Sons in law, Grandchildren, Relatives,
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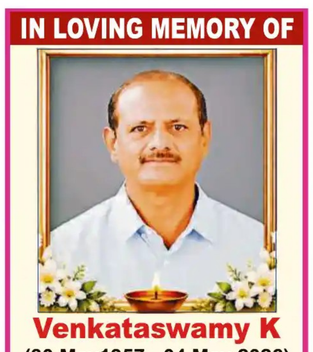

Venkataswamy K
(30 May1957 - 04 May 2026)
We bid farewell to a man of unwavering courage and grace,
Mr. Venkataswamy K,
retired Naval Chief,
who passed away peacefully
on 4th May 2026
at the age of 68.
His years of devoted service to the nation were matched only by his love for his family.
He is survived by
his wife and children,
who will forever cherish his memory. He answered the call of duty in life, and now rests in eternal peace.

CM to launch work on int'l stadium near Anekal on May 23

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on May 23, will lay the foundation stone for the new international stadium planned near Anekal on Bengaluru's outskirts.

The Karnataka Housing Board (KHB), in April, had called for tenders to execute the first phase of the project and according to sources, the tender has received good response.

"The last date to apply is May 16. Soon after that, we will conduct a technical evaluation, verification and issue work orders," a senior KHB official said.

Officials will go ahead with the foundation-laying ceremony before finalising the tenders,since the location for the stadium has been finalised. Phase one of the project will focus on construction of the stadium with a seating capacity of close to 80,000 and is expected to cost Rs 950 crore.

The facility will be spread across 1,08,963 sq metres and along with the podium area of 12,750 sq m, the total area will come up to 1,21,713 sq m.

The KHB has completed the feasibility study and has come up with a specialised design for the stadium.

According to documents, the 'seating bowl' design was inspired by the works of renowned structural engineer Walter P Moore.

The decision to construct a new stadium was taken after 11 people lost their lives in a stampede at Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru, during an event to celebrate RCB's victory in the IPL, in June 2025.

The facility will serve as a multi-use stadium hosting national and international cricket matches as well as major concerts and events. Work on the project is expected to be completed by 2029.

IADC presents merit scholarships to students at VIDVATA 2026

Mohammed Ammar, a student of IADC (fourth from left), receives his scholarship award certificate from K J George in the presence of (left to right) T Bharathi, Dr T Somasekhar and Dr Bharathi S.

Indian Academy Degree College (IADC) - Autonomous held VIDVATA 2026, its 13th Annual Scholarship Award ceremony, themed 'Empowering Excellence, Enabling Opportunity and Transforming Futures'. The event recognised academic achievements and reinforced the institution's commitment to fostering excellence.

K J George, Minister for Energy, Government of Karnataka, was the chief guest. As many as 60 students received scholarships. Among them, 18 received merit-cum-means scholarships, seven received PG merit scholarships and 13 girls were selected for scholarships reserved for them.

Since 2013, 519 students have received Rs 52 lakhs in scholarships across commerce, management, science and arts streams. The Indian Academy Trust also introduced 'badge scholarships' to recognise excellence beyond academics.

"True success begins at home through strong values, discipline and character building", said K J George. Indian Academy Group of Institutions' chairman Dr T Somasekhar, secretary T Bharathi, and the college principal Dr Bharathi S were present.

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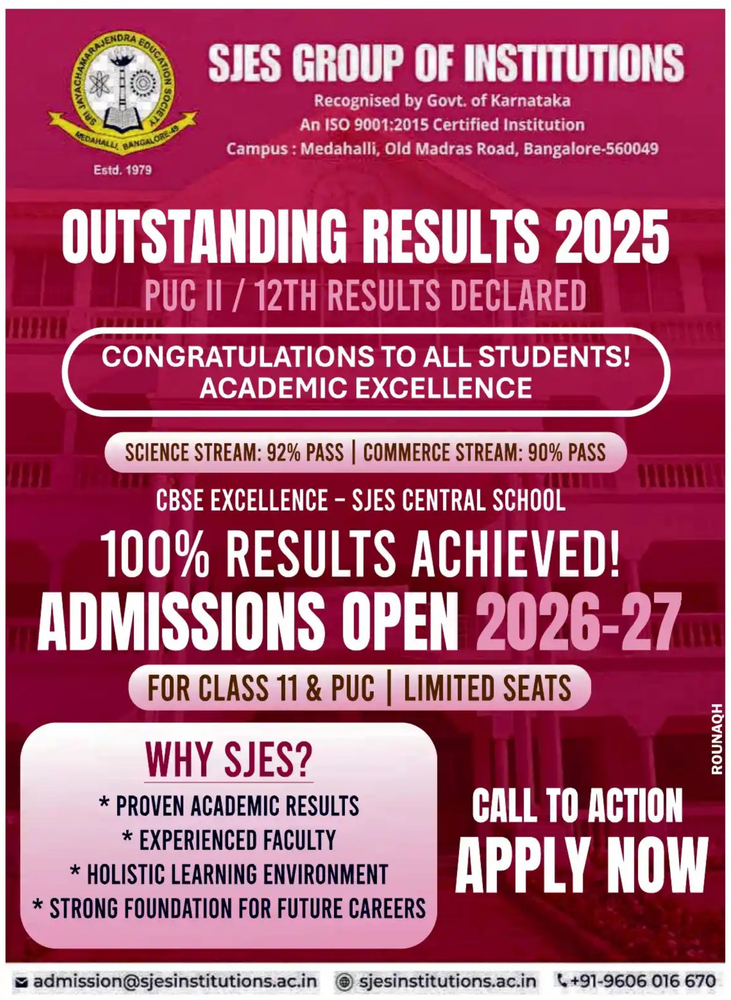
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Bidadi township is real estate scam, CM brokering it: HDK

'Siddaramaiah, to protect his chair, is ready to sign on anything'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Thursday asked the Congress government to drop the proposed Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT), dubbing it "a real estate business" and warned that farmers would not part with their land.

"Real estate operators inside the government are determined to snatch away farmers' lands," Kumaraswamy told a news conference.

Kumaraswamy's attack came days after the Cabinet approved the GBIT. The government is offering developed residential sites, each measuring 9,693 sq ft, or monetary compensation three times the guidance value, to farmers whose lands are notified for the 7,481-acre project in Bidadi.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar is anchoring the GBIT project.

Kumaraswamy said attempts were being made to acquire fertile horticultural lands belonging to farmers from eight villages. "I want to tell CM Siddaramaiah: Don't become a real-estate broker. In the final phase of your political career, exit with dignity and a good name," he added.

Kumaraswamy said Siddaramaiah, in order to protect his chair, was ready to "sign anything". He charged that farmers were being threatened and intimidated. "These intimidation tactics will not work with us. There is absolutely no question of surrendering land. Not a single farmer is willing to part with land. Try and take over their lands," he said, daring the government.

Questioning the compensation package, Kumaraswamy said the government was offering Rs 2-2.25 crore per acre in some places despite earlier valuations being fixed at nearly Rs 12 crore per acre. He also alleged that no proper social impact assessment was done. "The deputy commissioner hasn't visited any village," he said. "The DC is dancing to the tunes of people grabbing farmers' lands. He doesn't even pick my calls."

Kumaraswamy recalled that during his first tenure as CM, he proposed townships in five regions to reduce pressure on Bengaluru.

"At that time, the Congress, which was in the Opposition, carried out a massive misinformation campaign. A fact-finding committee was formed under the present law minister H K Patil. What happened to that report? If it still exists, kindly make it public," Kumaraswamy said.

New Bengaluru-Mumbai train via Hubballi from May 23, falls short of superfast promise

BENGALURU, DHNS

The railways on Thursday announced a new dedicated train between Bengaluru and Mumbai via Hubballi, but the service will take nearly 24 hours and will not be a superfast, contrary to assurances given by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

The SMVT Bengaluru-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus-SMVT Bengaluru Bi-Weekly Express will start from SMVT Bengaluru on May 23 and from Lokmanya Tilak Terminus on May 24. Train number 16553 will depart from SMVT Bengaluru at 8.35 pm on Saturdays and Tuesdays and reach LTT at 8.40 pm on Sundays and Wednesdays, respectively.

In the return direction, train number 16554 will depart from LTT at 11.15 pm on Sundays and Wednesdays and arrive at SMVT Bengaluru at 10.30 pm on Mondays and Thursdays, respectively.

The train, running with 17 LHB coaches, will stop at Davangere, Hubballi, Dharwad, Belagavi, Miraj, Sangli, Karad, Satara, Lonand, Pune, Lonavala, Karjat, Kalyan and Thane.

"The service will cater to the growing travel demand between Karnataka and Maharashtra and provide enhanced connectivity for passengers travelling between Bengaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Belagavi, Pune and Mumbai," the South Western Railway (SWR) said.

Before the regular service begins, the railways will run an inaugural one-way special train (06557 SMVT Bengaluru-LTT Inaugural Special) on May 17. It will depart from SMVT Bengaluru at 10 am and reach LTT at 10.30 am the next day. The train was approved in December 2025 but its long schedule drew widespread criticism. Elected representatives also slammed the timings.

During a visit to Bengaluru on April 25, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the city would get two trains to Mumbai — a Vande Bharat sleeper via Kalaburagi and a superfast train via Hubballi with LHB coaches. Dharwad MP and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi also announced that it would be a superfast and later upgraded to a Vande Bharat sleeper.

But looking at the schedule, train number 16553-16554 is anything but a superfast train.

The train will cover the 1,209-km distance in approximately 24 hours at an average speed of 52 kmph, below the threshold for a superfast train.

Manjunath Kanamadi, Chief Public Relations Officer, SWR, said the Bengaluru-Mumbai route would likely get a Vande Bharat sleeper service via Hubballi and added that details were being worked out.

T P Lokesh of the Karnataka Railway Vedike criticised the long schedule and lamented that the service connects neither KSR Bengaluru nor CSMT Mumbai — the main train hubs in either city.

3 govt officials among 5 chargesheeted in Rs 50-cr land fraud

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Lokayukta police have filed a chargesheet against five people, including three government officials, in a Rs 50-crore land fraud case.

The Lokayukta investigation stemmed from an FIR registered in 2023. The probe found that the accused had colluded with the government officials to grab 18 guntas of government land in BM Kaval and Michael Palya.

The investigators alleged that forged documents were used to cover up paperwork for the prime piece of real estate.

The chargesheet was filed under Section 13 (1) (criminal misconduct by a public servant) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including criminal breach of trust, cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy. According to the chargesheet, deceased George Tangaiah (accused 5) had faked and forged documents and falsely claimed he was allotted government land.

He allegedly colluded with J Francis (accused 1), currently retired revenue officer; Nagendra R (accused 2), currently retired assistant revenue officer; and H Devaraju (accused 3), retired revenue inspector, and registered the land in his name.

The Lokayukta police further alleged that George's son, Vijay Shekar Tangaiah (accused 4), despite knowing that the documents were fake, continued to illegally enjoy the land after the death. George died in 2019.

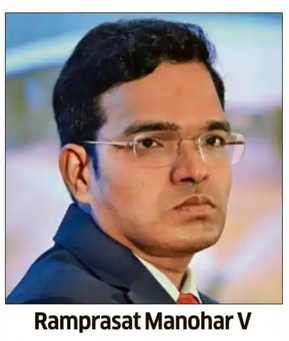
As a note, investigators mentioned that there was an interim stay on J Francis (accused 1), and they would file a supplementary chargesheet once it was vacated.

Robotic tech detects pipeline leaks at 399 locations in 6 months

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has used robotic technology to detect leakages and inspect underground pipelines at nearly 399 locations across the city over the last six months.

The initiative has helped avoid road cutting and the inconvenience caused to the public. Officially launched in November 2025, the initiative was introduced to address pipeline leaks and sewerage faults without disrupting city traffic. By deploying robotic units directly into underground networks, the board surveyed over 32 kilometres of infrastructure and identified critical faults without digging up roads.



Ramprasat Manohar V

BWSSB Chairman Ramprasat Manohar V said that earlier, road cutting was unavoidable to detect such faults, but the new technology has changed that.

"We understand how frustrating road excavations can be for motorists and the public in a metropolis like Bengaluru. Previously, digging up entire stretches of roads was inevitable to detect pipeline leaks or sewerage faults, leading to massive traffic jams. Following the directives of Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, we deployed this robotic technology. These machines travel inside pipelines and accurately pinpoint faults without the need for surface digging, sparing the public significant hardship," he said. According to the BWSSB, of the 404 complaints received from the public over the last six months, 399 were resolved using robotic technology. The remaining five complaints are being addressed on a priority basis.

August 2009: Aysha Ashmin insists on wearing Hijab and collects TC from SVS college, Bantwal.

August 2011: Hadia stops attending classes in Jain PU College, Moodbidri

March 2012: PU board allows Hadia to write II PUC exams with Hijab

April 2012: St Aloysius College bans the wearing of Hijab inside the classroom, exam halls

July 2012: 12-day protest against the ban on the Hijab, begins at Shri Ramakunjeshwara College

August 2012: Vivekananda Vidyavardhaka Sangha in Puttur bans Hijab, Burqa

March 2016: NMC, Sullia, directs five girls to remove the Hijab during a photo session

August 2016: Srinivas College of Pharmacy introduces a ban on Hijab, later withdraws

June 2018: Three students barred from wearing Hijab in St Agnes College

December 2021: Six PUC students wearing the Hijab were prevented from attending classes in the government college

February 2022: High Court, in its interim order, restrains all students from wearing Hijab

March 2022: A full bench of the High Court declares wearing hijab as not an essential practice in Islam.

October 2022: The Supreme Court delivered a split judgment on the validity of the Hijab ban, leaving the issue for a larger bench to decide on.

MAY 13, 2026: THE STATE GOVERNMENT REVOKES THE 2022 ORDER BANNING THE WEARING OF THE HIJAB INSIDE CLASSROOMS.

Hijab row: Half of students who dropped out of college didn't pursue studies

Some got married, others joined private colleges

HARSHA &
MANJUSHREE G NAIK
MANGALURU/UDUPI, DHNS

Following the state government's revocation of the 2022 Hijab order, principals of colleges in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi said that nearly 40 to 50 per cent of the 145 Muslim girl students, who had dropped out of government and aided degree colleges, have not resumed studies, with many of them now married.

"Jasmeen, a first-year BCom student at Government First Grade College, Kavoor, who dropped out after being barred from wearing the hijab inside classrooms, got married a year ago," her father, K Mohammed Usman, told *DH*.

"Aminamma, after dropping out of college due to the Hijab controversy, is also not keen on returning to college as she too will be getting married in a few weeks," Aminamma's mother told *DH*.

Rayana Suhana, after dropping out of college, learnt tailoring and has been supporting her family with the money earned from the work.

Suhana from Chokkabettu, on the city's outskirts, said that with the government lifting the ban on wearing the Hijab, she needs to consult her father on pursuing her education.

Riyaz Ahmed, general secretary of the Muslim Educational Institutions Federation (MEIF), said only a few students dropped out of colleges and got married.

"The remaining Muslim girls from government and aided colleges enrolled in private colleges which had not implemented a ban on Hijab in toto," Riyaz told *DH*.

'Tool to divide'

"The 2022 order banning Hijab was used as a tool to create divisions among students," said Rajshekar Hebbar, former principal of Dr P Dayananda Pai-P Satish Pai Government First Grade College, Car Street, Mangaluru, which witnessed the highest dropout of 35 girls students.

'Dreams shattered'

Bengaluru-based psychologist Ruksana Hassan said, "The dreams of these girls of becoming doctors or IAS officers have been nipped in the bud due to a government order."

Ruksana visits Mangaluru regularly to deliver talks to students at different colleges.

"Even those who are married are not leading happy married lives due to marital discord and divorces," she said.

'Restoration of right'

Aliya Asadi, who, by insisting on wearing the Hijab had sparked a legal battle over religious freedom in education, has expressed her gratitude to God through a post on the social media platform X. Her friend Almas A H retweeted that post.

Aliya Asadi, who is also an activist, said that the government's decision to revoke the hijab ban should not be seen as a "favour" done to the Muslim community, but as a restoration of a 'fundamental right' denied for the past three years.

'Conduct re-exams'

"As corrective measures, the government should now conduct re-examinations for the students who had missed examinations due to the restrictions and provide compensation to teachers who have lost their livelihoods. Justice would only be complete when those excluded from the education system are accommodated back into it," Aliya emphasised in an interview with a private channel.

A file photo of girl students staging a protest by sitting outside the Kavoor government gollege in Mangaluru during the Hijab controversy. DH PHOTO

Bhagva or anything new won't be allowed: CM

MYSURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday defended the state government's decision to withdraw the ban on Hijab for students up to Class 12, stating that the government has also allowed traditional religious symbols, such as Janivara, turban/peta, Shivadaara and Rudrakshi that are already being practised as part of faith and tradition.

However, he clarified that "Bhagva" or any newly introduced orange turban or symbols would not be permitted.

Speaking to media persons near his residence in the city before heading out to inspect ongoing development works in the city, Siddaramaiah said the opposition party's criticism over the move was unnecessary as the government's decision was aimed at respecting existing traditional practices of all communities.

On the Cabinet reshuffle, he said there is a need for it and added that he would meet AICC leaders in Delhi regarding the matter when invited.

Commenting on the appointment of V D Satheesan as Kerala chief minister, Siddaramaiah said it was the decision of the Congress high command.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi curtailing his convoy, Siddaramaiah said it was not a proper long-term measure and appeared to be temporary. "Experts from other countries should be consulted before making a decision," he said.

When asked whether Karnataka would adopt a similar practice, he said the government would first examine whether any other states had implemented it.

On the alleged NEET question paper leak, Siddaramaiah said Karnataka had conducted CET successfully, but the Centre's handling of NEET had caused hardship to students.

"Students who worked very hard have suffered injustice because of this," he said.

Joshi slams govt for lifting ban

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Thursday criticised the Congress government in the state for withdrawing the hijab ban in schools and colleges, questioning the urgency of the decision when the matter is still pending before the Supreme Court.

"When the issue is pending in the Supreme Court, what is the hurry to take a decision on this," Joshi asked.

The minister termed the withdrawal of the hijab ban — despite the matter being sub judice — as a clear disrespect to the judicial process.

Guv cuts convoy to 'min strength'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot announced on Thursday that he had halved his motorcade following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for austerity.

In a statement, Lok Bhavan said, Gehlot "reduced his convoy to the minimum required strength".

Earlier, Gehlot's motorcade had up to 10 vehicles. Now, it has been reduced to about four - the governor's car, a spare car and two security vehicles, according to sources in Lok Bhavan.

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka has also announced austerity in his motorcade. He said he would aim for a 30-50% reduction in petrol and diesel use following Modi's appeal.

"I'm reducing the use of escort vehicles. My entire family will also practise austerity," Ashoka said.

"Since there is no sign of the (West Asia) war ending, it's best to take precautionary measures".

Hindu outfits oppose, academicians say edu first

HUBBALLI, DHNS

The state government's decision to allow hijab in classrooms evoked sharp response from Hindu activists who termed the decision aimed at appeasing a certain vote bank. On the other hand, academicians called for a focus on the main objective of education.

Srirama Sene workers staged a protest at Sangolli Rayanna Circle in the city on Thursday condeming the governemnt's decision. Sena chief Pramod Muthalik alleged that the Congress government's decision was aimed only at minority appeasement and vote bank politics.

"The matter is still before the Supreme Court, and the government's decision results in contempt of court. We will also approach the judiciary. I ask Hindu students to wear saffron shawls if hijab is used inside their institutions," he said. Educationist Suresh Kulkarni termed hijab in educational institutions a non-issue.

"Let all follow their traditions, maintaining unity and harmony, but study should be the first priority in schools and colleges," he observed.

Hubballi-based SJMVS' Arts and Commerce College for Women principal Cecilia D'Cruz stated that the college would implement the government order.

"We had stopped allowing hijab inside classrooms as per the 2022 order. Many girls were wearing it outside campus, not inside. Now, we will follow the current government order as per our management's decision. If anyone provokes students and causes confusion, suitable steps will be taken," she added.

Congress leader Vedavyas Kaulagi said hijab is not a symbol of any party and wearing it is not treason also.

Sri Rama Sene workers stage a protest at Sangolli Rayanna Circle in Hubballi on Thursday.

PRAMOD MUTHALIK
Srirama Sene chief

"The matter is still before the Supreme Court, and the government's decision results in contempt of court. We will also approach the judiciary. I ask Hindu students to wear saffron shawls if hijab is used inside their institutions.

Smart tech, farmer collectives key to food security: Experts

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka's food security in the coming decades would depend on a shift towards climate-resilient crops, digital advisory systems and farmer collectives, experts said at the '*DH* Bengaluru 2040 – Agri Innovation Summit' on Thursday.

Speakers warned that agricultural water availability could fall to less than half of total use by 2040 as domestic and industrial demand rises.

With the state already among the country's most drought-prone, they said farming systems must adapt quickly to rising temperatures, erratic rainfall and labour shortages.

Opening the discussion, Dr M S Sheshshayee, professor and emeritus professor, university of agricultural sciences, Bengaluru, highlighted the dual threat of resource depletion and climatic fluctuations.

"We are seeing a reproductive failure in crops due to high night-time temperatures," he warned.

A significant portion of the discussion focused on rice, a water-guzzling staple.

Simon-Thorsten Wiebusch, CEO of Bayer CropScience Ltd, said India could maintain its rice output on half the current land area while slashing water use by 40%.

"Direct Seeded Rice is a game-changer," Wiebusch said. "It reduces methane emissions which are 20 times more potent than CO2 by 70%. It's also about labour savings and better yields for farmer."

He highlighted that India's 140 million farmers own, on average just one hectare of land.

"We need to start from the assumption that atomized land ownership is here to stay," Wiebusch noted, emphasising that the only viable solution was the coming together of these farmers through farmer producer organizations (FPOs).

Puthra G T, director of the department of agriculture, Karnataka, echoed this, saying over 80% of the state's farmers were small and marginal with limited bargaining power.

He detailed the state's push for FPOs, moving beyond financial incentives to training them in branding, packaging and marketing.

"The state is now working on a system that combines farmer data with weather patterns, market trends, soil fertility and pest monitoring. This helps provide tailor-made advisories to farmers on the helpline," he said.

Rashmit Singh Sukhmani, founder of SatSure, explained how satellite data was evolving from simple imagery into a digital dictionary of the earth.

By combining satellite earth observation with ground-level AI sensors, SatSure was helping prevent crop risks, he said.

(From Left) Simon-Thorsten Wiebusch, CEO, Bayer CropScience Ltd; Dr Puthra G T, director, state department of agriculture; Dr M S Sheshshayee, professor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru; Rashmit Singh Sukhmani, founder and chief technology officer, SatSure, take part in a discussion on 'Building sustainable agriculture for future generations' at the 'DH Bengaluru 2040 – Agri Innovation Summit' in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Motorcyclists navigate a flooded road following heavy rain in Kalaburagi on Thursday.

Showers bring respite from sweltering heat

BENGALURU, DHNS: Heavy rains lashed several parts of Dharwad, Haveri, Belagavi, Uttara Kannada and Vijayanagar districts late on Wednesday and Thursday nights. Falling trees snapped electricity lines, affecting power supply. The showers brought respite from sweltering heat.

Strong winds blew away roof sheets of over 30 houses in several villages of Belagavi district. A tree fell on a dargah at Hosaritti in Haveri district damaging its compound. A 68-year-old man died on the spot after a tree branch fell on him in Bidarakundi village of Muddebihal taluk in Vijayapura district. Heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorm and lightning lashed many places in Kalaburagi, Yadgir and Bidar districts.

Dundappa B Gavanal alias Ajay (19) died after he was struck by lightning near Mudahadadi village in Davangere taluk. Several parts of the district including Davangere, Honnali, Harihar and Channagiri taluks received good rains accompanied by lightning.

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division,
No.44, 18th Main road, 39th Cross, Jayanagar 4th T block,
Bengaluru-560041.

No: EE/BSCC/JN/TEND/02/2026-27 Date: 14.05.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division, BSCC invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Greater Bengaluru Authority (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD/Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations for the constructions of work detailed in the table below.

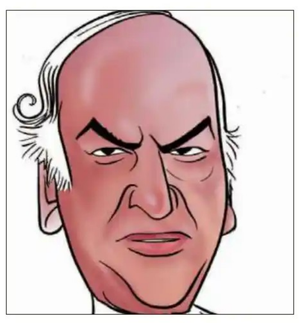
Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Annual Maintenance of footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in Ward no.7 For the Year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 35.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 70,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : Others.**
2.	Annual Maintenance of footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no.8 For the Year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 35.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 70,000/-.Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : Others.**
3.	Annual Maintenance of footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no.9 For the Year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 35.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 35,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : SC**
4.	Annual Maintenance of footpaths. Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no.10 For the Year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 35.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 70,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : Others.**
5.	Annual Maintenance of footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 11 For the Year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 35.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 70,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : Others.**
6.	Annual Maintenance of footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no.12 For the Year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 35.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 70,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : Others.**
7.	Annual Maintenance of footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no.13 For the Year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 35.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 70,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : Others.**
8.	Annual Maintenance of footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no.14 For the Year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 35.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 35,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : CAT-II (A).**
9.	Annual Maintenance of footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no. 15 For the Year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 35.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 35,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : SC.**
10.	Annual Maintenance of footpaths, Desilting of Drains, Shoulder and grating cleaning, resetting of broken slabs and paver blocks and other works in ward no.16 For the Year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 35.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 35,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : SC.**
11.	Filling of Potholes, other and maintenance improvements works in Bayrasandra Sub division (ward no.7 & 8 each ward 20.00 Lakhs) roads for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 40.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 80,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : Others.**
12.	Filling of Potholes, other and maintenance improvements works in NAL Layout Sub division -(ward no.9 & 10 each ward 20.00 Lakhs) roads for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 40.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 80,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : Others.**
13.	Filling of Potholes, other and maintenance improvements works in Jayanagara Sub division (ward no.11 & 12 each ward 20.00 Lakhs) roads for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 40.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 80,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : Others.**
14.	Filling of Potholes, other improvements and maintenance works in JP Nagara Sub division (ward no.13 & 14 each ward 20.00 Lakhs) roads for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 40.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 40,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : CAT-II (A).**
15.	Filling of Potholes, other and maintenance improvements works in Sarakki Sub division (ward no.15 & 16 each ward 20.00 Lakhs) roads for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 40.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 40,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : SC.**
16.	Annual Maintenance for filling of potholes, maintenance of footpath, desilting of drains, shoulders in Arterial and Sub-arterial roads and other maintenance works in Ward No.7 & 8 in Bayrasandra Sub division for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 30.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 60,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : Others.**
17.	Annual Maintenance for filling of potholes, maintenance of footpath, desilting of drains, shoulders in Arterial and Sub-arterial roads and other maintenance works in Ward No.9 & 10 in NAL Layout Sub division for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 30.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 60,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : Others.**
18.	Annual Maintenance for filling of potholes, maintenance of footpath, desilting of drains, shoulders in Arterial and Sub-arterial roads and other maintenance works in Ward No.11 & 12 in Jayanagara Sub division for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 30.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 30,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : CAT-II (A).**
19.	Annual Maintenance for filling of potholes, maintenance of footpath, desilting of drains, shoulders in Arterial and Sub-arterial roads and other maintenance works in Ward No.13 & 14 in JP Nagara Sub division for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 30.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 30,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : CAT-II (A).**
20.	Annual Maintenance for filling of potholes, maintenance of footpath, desilting of drains, shoulders in Arterial and Sub-arterial roads and other maintenance works in Ward No.15 & 16 in Sarakki Sub division for the year 2026-27. **Estimate Cost: Rs. 30.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 30,000/-. Reservation as per Randomization for SC/ST & Others : ST.**

Calendar of Events : (1) Last Date and Time for uploading tenders in e portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in : On **30.05.2026 at 16.00 P.M. (2)** Date and Time of Opening Bids on the e-Portal : **On 01.06.2026 at 16.05 P.M.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division, BSCC

Kharge yet to decide on 2nd stint in RS or return to state politics

Compromise choice to resolve Siddu-DKS tiff, realise Dalit CM dream?



PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's term in the Rajya Sabha ends on June 25. However, the veteran is yet to decide on a second stint. A source close to the leader says he has earned enough credibility in the party to decide his future — either to continue in Rajya Sabha or focus entirely on party affairs as party chief.

In June 2020, Kharge entered the Rajya Sabha and the following year became leader of the Opposition. His elevation as Congress president, however, marked a defining moment in his career. Born into a Dalit family at Warwatti in Bidar district, Kharge's rise in politics has been remarkable.

A law graduate and former labour union leader, Kharge was known as "Solillada Saradara" (invincible leader), before his defeat in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections as he had won nine Assembly elections from Gurmitkal and Chittapur, besides two Lok Sabha polls from Kalaburagi. He served in the cabinets of four chief ministers, before becoming sent to the upper house of parliament.

A close ally of the Gandhi family, Kharge lost the CM race thrice — in 1999 to S M Krishna, in 2004 to N Dharam Singh and in 2013 to ex-JD(S) leader Siddaramaiah — but never openly revolted. He was moved to national politics to neutralise parallel power centres in Karnataka.

Now, speculation over his return to state politics has intensified amid a prolonged power-transfer row in Karnataka. It is no longer confined to Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar, with the demand for a Dalit chief minister gaining renewed traction.

Kharge's recent remark about an impending "discussion" with party leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi over leadership change has fuelled speculation that the party is exploring options to stabilise the government and improve its electoral prospects.

When reporters referred to Home Minister G Parameshwara backing him for the CM's post, Kharge said, "You, Parameshwara and top leaders say I should become chief minister. But Sonia Gandhi has taken decisions regarding me". Parameshwara had noted that Kharge's contemporaries — Gundu Rao, Veerappa Moily, Dharam Singh and Bangarappa — all became chief ministers, but not him.

Congress insiders say the high command faces a dilemma. Siddaramaiah continuing as CM could prolong uncertainty, while replacing him with Shivakumar may deepen factional tensions ahead of the 2028 polls. Kharge is being viewed as an acceptable compromise. But a close aide confides that "much water has flown" since the last time he lost the CM race.

If the CM post is indeed given to Kharge as a reward for his service to the party, it is long overdue, said veteran leaders, who see the veteran as an opportunity to "reclaim" the party from "outsiders".

Yet, while the demand for a Dalit CM has often surfaced during leadership crises, whether it will translate into a real political shift this time remains to be seen.

Muslim groups hail hijab order, flag unkept promises

Hijab order, from Page 1

On May 16, the Karnataka Rajya Muslim Okkoota has organised the "Karnataka Muslim Empowerment and Accountability Summit" in Bengaluru, apparently to remind the Congress government about its "betrayal" and question Muslim MLAs and ministers about their "long silence".

A few Muslim legislators backing the KRMO meet has once again exposed the rift within the party.

"We welcome the (hijab) decision, though it has come too late. Who will compensate for the harassment, discrimination and loss of education suffered by Muslim girls? A PUCL study cites how Muslim girls dropped out of schools due to the ban. Why did it take three long years?" asked Tanveer Ahmed, social activist and part of KRMO.

The timing of the hijab order and the recent Cabinet approval for a Rs 600-crore action plan to develop infrastructure in minority-dominated colonies and slums across 11 city corporations is suspect as Congress has overlooked its own promises – of scrapping the BJP-era laws.

"The 4% reservation to Muslims scrapped by BJP and redistributed between Vokkaligas and Lingayats has not been restored yet. Anti-cow slaughter law continues to impose severe livelihood consequences on farmers and Muslim meat traders. Congress had opposed this law, but did not repeal it. On July 5, 2023, the Animal Husbandry minister told the Legislative Council there was no proposal to repeal the Act," charged Ahmed.

SDPI state president Abdul Majeed said, "None of the laws that have serious consequences have been repealed. Cow slaughter law continues to be a source of harassment for Muslim youth as there are no authorised slaughter houses and experts to certify age of the cow or buffalo. The anti-conversion law has not been scrapped nor discussed in the party forum too."

The Okkoota has flagged vigilantism, hate speech, fake news campaigns, moral policing, economic boycott calls and targeted communal mobilisation against Muslims, protection of Waqf properties and higher allocation for minority welfare.

"In light of findings from the Sachar Committee, Kundu Committee and the K Rahman Khan committee highlighting the severe socio-economic backwardness of Muslims, allocation of Rs 10,000 crore was promised. But three years later, allocation remains Rs 4,762 crore," it stated.

Firewood still fuels most kitchens in state, finds study

LPG, from Page 1

After the scheme was rolled out, 29.8% of households reported using LPG as their sole cooking fuel, the study found. "...a majority (66%) continue to practise fuel stacking, combining LPG with firewood. A small share (4.3%) still relies exclusively on firewood, indicating partial transition gaps," the study said.

High cost of refills was the "most dominant barrier" reported by 50.3% of households for low exclusive LPG use. "Supply-related issues also play a significant role. Irregular supply of LPG cylinders was reported by 31.8% of the non-exclusive users, making it the second most common barrier," it said.

In Kalaburagi, for example, nearly two-thirds of households earn below Rs 5,000 a month. "...such households simply do not have the spare cash to purchase a Rs 1,000–1,200 cylinder more than once or twice a year. Because of this, families ration their LPG, saving it for quick cooking tasks and returning to wood or dung fires for bulk cooking," the study said.

The study suggests higher subsidy or additional free refills per year to improve affordability. "To help families with limited cash flow, introduce smaller LPG cylinders (5 kg cylinders) or a system for partial refills that require lower upfront expenditure," it recommended.

Unpaid chores

According to the study, 65.9% of respondents reported that their cooking time reduced after adopting LPG. Households reported saving an average of 2.31 hours per day. Monetarily, this was worth Rs 344-353 per day. However, the "time saved" was largely spent on unpaid domestic chores like cleaning and childcare.

Challenges

The study noted that the state's scheme did not expand beyond the initial phase "likely due to funding constraints and changes in government priorities".

Also, the MMABY was on a collision course with the federal Ujjwala scheme.

"Unlike other states (Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Punjab) that dovetailed their LPG schemes with (Ujjwala) through oil marketing companies, Karnataka attempted to distribute connections directly via local LPG dealers," the study said. "This unilateral method prompted federal objections and fears of 'large-scale chaos' in the field. The misalignment delayed approvals and created operational confusion, slowing the scheme's initial progress," it said.

NEW FACES IN ASSEMBLY

Legislative Assembly Speaker U T Khader greets Umesh Meti (Bagalkot) and Samarth Mallikarjun (Davangere South) after they take oath as MLAs at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Thursday. Minister Satish Jarkiholi and Davangere MP Prabha Mallikarjun are seen.

2 held for creating child sexual abuse material, uploading online

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Cyber Command Unit (CCU) has arrested two people for allegedly creating Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM).

The suspects are Kiran Kumar, 29, and Aditya M K, 20. Aditya worked as a swimming pool maintenance person, while Kumar's employment status was unclear at this time.

According to the Cyber Command, a case was registered at the Kaggalipura police station on May 10 following tip-off over suspected instance of creation of child sexual abuse material for online dissemination.

Investigations revealed that two minor girl victims were exploited and videos were uploaded on the internet. The child victims have subsequently recorded their statements, the CCU said.

"Based on the statements of the victims, the arrested persons who assaulted the minors and recorded the acts on their in mobile phones as videos and uploaded them, have been arrested," the CCU said in a statement on Thursday.

The suspects have been booked relevant sections of BNS and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. They were were produced before a court and taken into police custody for further investigation.

37 bonded labourers rescued

HOSAPETE (VIJAYANAGAR DIST), DHNS: The district administration has rescued 37 bonded labourers from a brick kiln at Nandibandi in Mariyammanahalli hobli of the taluk.

All of them hailed from Odisha and were housed in a government hostel, till they were sent back to their state by train on Thursday.

Spandana Association, an NGO, had tipped off the district administration in this regard, following which an operation was launched to rescue them.

The labourers had been locked up in sheds and were made to work in the nearby brick kiln. Srinivas from Nellore in Andhra Pradesh had set up the brick kiln . Police swung into action following a complaint registered by labour inspector.

India slams 'unilateral' US...

BRICS, from Page 1

"Continuing tensions, risks to maritime traffic and disruptions to energy infrastructure highlight the fragility of the situation," Jaishankar said, referring to the conflict, while presenting the national statement on behalf of India. "Safe and unimpeded maritime flows through international waterways, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, remain vital for global economic well-being."

"The conflict in Gaza has grave humanitarian implications. A sustained ceasefire, humanitarian access, and a credible pathway towards a durable and peaceful resolution remain essential," he said, without referring to either Hamas or Israel. "India supports a two-state solution where the Palestine issue is concerned."

He noted that Lebanon and Syria continued to face challenges, while the conflict in Sudan imposed a high human cost, and Yemen presented humanitarian concerns and maritime risks, even as stability in Libya remained important.

"Taken together, they underline a clear reality: stability cannot be selective, and peace cannot be piecemeal," Jaishankar said, adding: "It is essential to uphold international law, protect civilians and avoid targeting public infrastructure. India stands ready to contribute constructively to de-escalation efforts and to support initiatives aimed at restoring stability."

He criticised the US and the others in the West for increasingly resorting to "unilateral coercive measures and sanctions."

Govt announces new roster, SC/ST staff body calls it unscientific

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government on Wednesday issued a 400-point roster for government jobs to accommodate internal reservation among Scheduled Castes (SC).

However, the order issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) was met with opposition from the SC/ST Employees' Association, which submitted a memorandum to the Dalit ministers in the Cabinet, seeking a new roster system.

The Association claimed that the 400-point roster system would reduce opportunities for the SC community in Group 'A', calling it 'a deliberate attempt' by some in the DPAR.

K'taka SIR house visits...

SIR, from Page 1

Thirteen states and UTs have undergone the process in the first two phases and around 5.18 crore voters have been taken off the rolls, inviting criticism from the Opposition and civil society, which had claimed the exercise is based on the exclusion of voters. Owing to legal issues, the SIR was not conducted in Assam. The schedule of SIR phase-III has been fixed keeping in view the common field machinery with the ongoing house listing of the Census.

With this, the SIR will cover the entire country except Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"SIR is being conducted to ensure that only eligible voters are included in the electoral roll," said CEC Gyanesh Kumar.

Cong ends Kerala suspense...

Satheesan, from Page 1

Even as he left for Guruvayur Sree Krishna temple soon after the AICC announced Satheesan as the leader, he reportedly gave his support for Satheesan in writing.

The central leadership widened the consultation process, calling former party chiefs for their opinion, during which some of them highlighted the support Satheesan had among the public and the fallout of a decision that ignored his claims, especially when he was leading the party in the past five years.

Also in consideration was the vocal support Satheesan enjoyed among allies, especially the Muslim League.

The central leadership was also told that since Venugopal was a close Rahul aide, a decision in his favour and rejecting Satheesan would project that the top party leader's judgement was clouded by favouritism.

ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION RAICHUR

No:ACF/SFDR/KPPP.Proc.Tender/CR- /2026-27 Date: 13-05-2026

e-Tender Notification

(ಎರಡನೇಯ ಬಾರಿಗೆ)

This is to inform to the the public that, for the Financial Year 2026-27. Assistant Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Raichur has invited Tender for Forest Works through e-Procurement (Website Link http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) two cover system under Social Forestry and RKVY Schemes. During 2026-27 Registered Forest Contractors are eligible for Tender Works. Tender From 13-05-2026 to 22-05-2026 & 25-05-2026 Technical Bids and 26-05-2026 Financial Bid Opening.

For More Details available on the notice board. O/o Assistant Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Raichur.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Raichur

DIP/RCR/66/KSMC&A/68/2026-27

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Senior Assistant Director (Education), Mini Vidhana Soudha, Yelahanka, Bangalore

No.: N.C.C.S.A.D.(E)/PR/15,18,19/2026-27 Date: 13.05.2026

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION

Subject: Regarding obtaining current market rates for purchasing necessary materials from Kindergarten to Graduate Colleges of North City Corporation for the 2026-27 academic year.

With reference to the above subject, quotations are invited as detailed below at current market rates for supplying of essential items such as Uniforms, Shoes & Socks, Bags and Sweaters from reputable suppliers / shopkeepers to the students studying in 09-Kindergarten, 01-Primary, 05-High School, 05-Pre University College and 01-Graduate College of Bengaluru North City Corporation for the year 2026-27.

Sl. No.	Details of Materials to be Purchased	Details of the Sections to be Purchased	Number of Students Studying	Number of Materials Required
1	Uniform	From Kindergarten to Pre University College only	5,641	For each Student
2	Shoe and Socks	From Kindergarten to Pre University College only	5,641	For each Student
3	Bags	From Kindergarten to Post-Graduate College only	5,641	For each Student
4	Sweaters	From Kindergarten to Post-Graduate College only	5,641	For each Student

Terms and Conditions:

1. It has been instructed to submit the price and specification for the total number of materials required for students studying in 09-Kindergarten, 01-Primary, 05-High School, 05-Pre University College and 01-Graduate College of the Corporation.
2. The prices quoted for the said materials shall be inclusive of GST.
3. Last date for submission of quotations in Sealed Cover: **19.05.2026 up to 4:00 P.M.**
4. Bids will be opened on **19.05.2026 at 5:00 P.M.** Interested parties may participate.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director (Education), Bengaluru North City Corporation

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama" Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka State

No: VTU/BGM/RE/2026-27/IFT No.23/675 Date: 13-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Two Cover System (KPP Portal Only)

The e-Tender are invited induplicate from eligible tenderers, registered Contractor, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi-18, under standard tender document procedure service format for the works of **1) Providing and Supplying Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks, Dinner for Dignitaries, Chief guest, Teaching and Non teaching staff on the occasion of 75th year Platinum Jubilee Function at University BDT College of Engineering, Davangere Amounting to Rs. 61,91,000/- (Excluding GST)** & **2) Providing Stage setup German tent, Seating arrangement and Design for stage including providing LED light walls sound system at UBDT College of Engineering, Davangere in view of Platinum Jubilee Celebration Amounting to Rs. 96,66,000/- (Excluding GST)** Other details log on to website **https://kppp.kamataka.gov.in** on **13-05-2026**.

Sd/- Registrar VTU, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/248/Adverto/2026-27

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division Ballari
Email: ee_pwdbellary@yahoo.com Telephone No: 08392 -266123

No: EE/PWD/BD/TS-6/2025-26/791 Dated :12.05.2026

Short term Tender Notification (Two Cover Sysytem)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the works detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through KPP- portal. Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded through the web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours.**TABLE**

Sl No	Details of Works	Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)
1)	PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT35698	100.00

Note : Any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions, tenderers can view in KPP_Procurement Portal.
1)Last dates for queries (through KPP –portal): **16.05.2026 upto 12.00 Hours**
2)Last date for submission of tenders through KPP -portal: **20.05.2026 upto 16.00 Hours**
3)Date and time of opening of Technical Bids: **21.05.2026 at 16.30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.

DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/140

ಡಾ.ಮನಮೋಹನ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ
Dr. MANMOHAN SINGH BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY
Jnana Jyoti, Central College Campus, Dr Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-01
Mobil: +91 81054 73869. **E-Mail:** registerevlubcu@gmail.com / regev@bcu.ac.in

No. BCU/2026-27/IND0027 **Date :** 13.05.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

1	Name of the Work	**Supply of a Multifunction Xerox machine to the Examination Selection, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru**
2	EMD Amount	**Rs. 25,000/-**
3	Last Date for Queries	**18.05.2026 at 16.30**
4	Last Date for Submission of Tender	**22.05.2026 at 16.00**
5	Opening of Technical Bid	**25.05.2026 at 11.30**
6	Place of Opening of Tender	Office of the Registrar (Evaluation) Jnana Jyoti, Central College Campus, Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University, Dr Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-01.

Note: Payment of Short-term Tender processing fee and EMD amount as per E-procurement Portal.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR (Evaluation)

DIPR/CP/654/SA/2026-27

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023 Telephone No.080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com**

No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-3/AE-5/TND/2026-27/345 Date:14.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Short-Term Tender is invited from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in Two Tender document system in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform for the following works.

Sl. No.	Description of works	Approx. Amount Put to tender (Excluding GST) (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs.in Lakhs)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Providing Additional Infrastructure Facilities to CHC Malkhed in Sedam Taluk of Kalaburagi District.	158.31	2.38	06 Months
2	Providing Consultancy Service for Preparation of DPR, Architectural, Structural and other service Drawings for the work of Construction of an Integrated 200 Bedded Cancer Hospital and Institute, inclusive of linear accelerator with Bunkers, along with Necessary Equipment and Furniture at BMCRC, Ballari.	116.00 (Including GST)	1.75	18 Months

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders**: 30.05.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **01.06.2026 at 16.01 hrs.**
Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

CM WAIT ENDS: Celebrations clouded by discontent among Venugopal, Chennithala supporters

Bumpy ride ahead for Satheesan as rival camps sulk

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

'DIVINE MISSION'

- 11-day suspense ends with oath on May 18
- Satheesan calls CM role a 'divine mission'
- Resentment surfaces among Venugopal, Chennithala camps
- Backseat driving fears as rivals eye portfolios
- BJP & NSS allege IUML pressure

VD Satheesan's victory in the race for the Kerala chief minister's post has sparked celebrations across the state, though a bumpy ride may await the new government as resentment from supporters of KC Venugopal and Ramesh Chennithala — who lost the race — has begun to surface.

The Congress leadership weighed the popular mood in Satheesan's favour, even as Venugopal and Chennithala enjoyed stronger backing within the party, including from Congress Legislature Party (CLP) members.

Satheesan will be sworn in on May 18.

As soon as the announcement naming Satheesan as CM ended the 11-day suspense, party workers, including women, raised slogans hailing him, distributed sweets and burst crackers.

Satheesan, while thanking top Congress leaders, specifically acknowledged the support he had received from Venugopal and Chennithala during his political career. Terming his chief ministership a "divine mission", he said 'Team UDF' would work hard to fulfil its commitments and redefine public service.

He also called on senior leaders, including former defence minister AK Antony and former KPCC president VM Sudheeran, who are learnt to have played a key role in conveying the mass support for Satheesan to Rahul Gandhi. They reportedly convinced the high command that the support was genuine and not orchestrated.

Rift in open

Meanwhile, resentment among the supporters of Venugopal and Chennithala began to surface.

Congress MLA-designate Pazhakulam Madhu and KPCC general secretary MM Naseer voiced displeasure over the party not considering the majority support Venugopal had received, even as Venugopal himself welcomed the decision to make Satheesan the CLP leader.

Chennithala, meanwhile, left for the Guruvayur temple without speaking to the media, while his supporters expressed their displeasure openly.

The resentment among a large section of the party is likely to affect governance, with attempts at backseat driving. Both Venugopal and Chennithala could stake claims to key portfolios, though the chances of Chennithala joining the Cabinet are remote given his seniority over Satheesan.

While all UDF coalition partners welcomed the AICC's decision to consider the mass support for Satheesan, the BJP and Hindu community outfits — the Nair Service Society (NSS) and the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP) — have stepped up a campaign alleging that the Congress succumbed to pressure from the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML). NSS leader Sukumaran Nair and SNDP leader Vellappally Natesan openly expressed this view.

The IUML has been openly urging that the popular demand in favour of Satheesan be duly considered by the AICC in its CM selection process. The party is also learnt to have conveyed its views through AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who represents the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat where the IUML wields considerable influence.

Congress workers celebrate after VD Satheesan was named the Chief Minister-designate of Kerala, in Kochi, on Thursday. PTI

Kerala's 'green' leader with grit and conviction

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Vadassery Damodaran Satheesan, popularly known as VD or VDS, the Congress' choice for Kerala chief minister, first rose to prominence as a "green MLA" for his uncompromising stand on environmental issues. Over time, he built a reputation as a no-nonsense leader, taking firm positions against unethical practices and communalism, and has now emerged as the undisputed face of the Congress in Kerala.

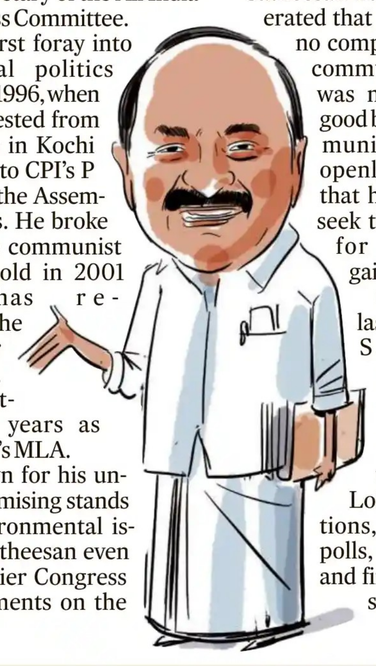
His determination and confidence were on full display during the polls, as he predicted a historic UDF victory with more than 100 seats, and even offered to go into political exile if proven wrong.

Since 2021, he has served as Leader of the Opposition, steering the coalition partners as a cohesive 'Team UDF'.

Satheesan, who turns 62 this month, is a lawyer by profession. His wife is Lakshmi Priya and their daughter is Kumari Unnimaya.

He entered politics during his student days, serving as union chairman of Mahatma Gandhi University and later as secretary of the National Students' Union of India. Over the years, he held several party responsibilities, including vice president of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee and secretary of the All India Congress Committee.

His first foray into electoral politics came in 1996, when he contested from Paravur in Kochi but lost to CPI's P Raju in the Assembly polls. He broke into the communist stronghold in 2001 and has retained the seat ever since, completing 25 years as Paravur's MLA.



Known for his uncompromising stands on environmental issues, Satheesan even put earlier Congress governments on the defensive over moves to dilute restrictions in ecologically sensitive zones.

In the race for the CM post, his opponents cited his lack of ministerial experience as a drawback. Supporters countered that Satheesan didn't get a berth as he was not supported by vested interest groups.

Satheesan has often reiterated that there can be no compromise with communalism. He was never in the good books of community leaders, openly declaring that he would not seek their support for electoral gains.

Over the last five years, Satheesan has proved his mettle by leading the UDF through the Lok Sabha elections, local body polls, byelections, and finally, the Assembly polls.

Between the cup and the lip, Chennithala misses again

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Among the three contenders for the Kerala chief minister's post, Ramesh Chennithala clearly had greater seniority and experience than KC Venugopal and VD Satheesan.

The 69-year-old Chennithala, a six-time MLA from Haripad, is learnt to be upset over the AICC's decision to make Satheesan the CM, and may even stay away from the Congress Legislature Party meeting.

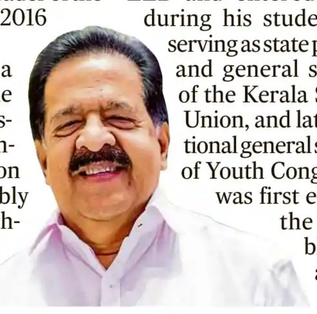
He still holds the record as the youngest minister in Kerala, having entered the K Karunakaran ministry in 1986 at the age of about 30. He later served as Home Minister from 2014 to 2016 in the Oommen Chandy government and as Leader of the Opposition from 2016 to 2021.

Chennithala earlier missed the CM's post by a whisker. Had the Congress-led UDF won the 2021 Assembly election, Chennithala — who was then leading the front — could have emerged as the natural choice for the top job.

After the UDF's victory in 2011, the state witnessed a contest between senior leader Oommen Chandy and Chennithala, then president of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee. Chandy, with greater seniority and stronger backing from coalition partners, won the race.

A native of Alappuzha, Chennithala is a four-time MP from the Kottayam and Mavelikara constituencies and a six-time MLA from Haripad. He has also held several posts in the AICC.

He enjoys a good rapport with senior AICC leaders, including members of the Nehru family.



Chennithala completed LLB and entered politics during his student days, serving as state president and general secretary of the Kerala Students Union, and later as national general secretary of Youth Congress. He was first elected to the Assembly in 1982 at the age of 26.

Vijayan to be Oppn leader

Former chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan will be the new Leader of the Opposition in Kerala. The CPM state committee meeting held on Thursday took the decision unanimously, according to a statement from party state secretary MV Govindan, reports DHNS.

Following the rout faced by the LDF under Vijayan's leadership, there was strong demand from party supporters for a change at the helm.

Within the party too, a section was reportedly seeking a leadership shift, with speculation that former finance minister KN Balagopal might be named Opposition Leader.

Vijayan, who served as CM for 10 consecutive years, is becoming the Leader of the Opposition for the first time. Chief Minister-designate VD Satheesan held the Opposition Leader's post in the last Assembly.

Bypoll concerns, 'organic' protests for Satheesan deciding factors

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Congress leadership's decision to name V D Satheesan as the Kerala chief minister was primarily based on two reasons — its apprehensions about a possible negative outcome in the bypoll in Alappuzha Lok Sabha seat and the "organic" nature of demonstrations on the chief ministerial choice in Kerala, sources said.

One of the major concerns was the reports from Kerala that a bypoll in Alappuzha, if K C Venugopal had to resign from the Lok Sabha to become the chief minister, may not go the Congress way and BJP could benefit from it.

Also, irate Satheesan supporters were flooding social media, warning that an Assembly bypoll would be a 'Waterloo' for Venugopal.

The second important reason was that the party high command got ground reports about the widespread demonstrations in favour of Satheesan, which were organic, especially in the minority belts.

Satheesan got unflinching support from the Muslim League, which saw him as a "secular leader" who stood with the community when other Congress leaders maintained a strategic silence in the run-up to the elections. He also received support from Christian leaders.

In Delhi, Satheesan had the support of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, sources said.

Choosing the youngest among the contenders — Satheesan is 61, Venugopal 63 and Chennithala 69 — also meant that the party high command acknowledged Satheesan's "energetic" leadership and "ideological clarity" at a time when the party was "down and out" in the state.

However, one of the challenges for Satheesan now will be to ensure that he is not under the influence of allies, especially because he never held an administrative post. BJP in the past had accused Congress-led governments in Kerala of currying favours to the allies, especially those from the minorities.

Satheesan's election is also seen as the high command rejecting the reported majority Venugopal had in the legislature party.

Sources said there was "no secret ballot" in the legislature party when observers Ajay Maken and Mukul Wasnik met the MLAs.

Rebel AIADMK MLAs seek disqualification of Palaniswami

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Upping their ante notwithstanding their removal from party positions, the rebel AIADMK group led by S P Velumani and C Ve Shanmugam on Thursday petitioned Speaker J C D Prabhakar seeking the disqualification of 22 MLAs, including general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, for going against the "party whip" in the Assembly.

The rebel group said the actions of Palaniswami sacking the MLAs from their party positions were not tenable due to the crisis in the AIADMK, while reiterating that they were not willing to break away from the party but want it to emerge stronger.

On the other side, MLAs owing allegiance to the faction headed by EPS also met the Speaker and demanded that Palaniswami be recognised as the leader of the AIADMK legislature party as he was duly elected by the MLAs at a meeting last week. However, the group did not seek the disqualification of the 25 MLAs who voted in favour of the TVK government.

EPS, who cracked the whip on the MLAs by removing them from party positions, maintained that his actions were only aimed at strengthening the party. He also accused the rebel MLAs of being "power-hungry" and asked the cadres to join him in defeating their plans.

Setback for NDA as RJD wrests Bihar MLC seat

ARRAH, PTI: The ruling NDA in Bihar received a setback on Thursday when the opposition RJD wrested the Bhojpur-Buxar legislative council seat, in a bypoll necessitated by the resignation of JD(U) MLC Radha Charan Sah.

Sah's son Kanhaiya lost to Sonu Kumar Rai of the RJD by 340 votes, officials said.

Around 5,500 votes were polled by the members of local bodies in the districts of Bhojpur and Buxar in the bypoll held on Tuesday.

Sah gave up the seat upon his election to the Assembly from Sandesh in November last year, when the NDA had stormed back to power, winning 202 seats in the 243-member assembly.

Meanwhile, RJD working president Tejashwi Yadav expressed delight over the party's victory.

Red Fort blast: NIA files 7,500-page chargesheet against 10 accused

NEW DELHI, PTI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a 7,500-page chargesheet against 10 accused in the Red Fort area car bomb explosion case, in which 11 people were killed, officials said on Thursday.

The high-intensity Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) blast that rocked the national capital on November 10 last year had also left several injured and caused extensive property damage.

All 10 accused, including the main perpetrator, Dr Umer Un Nabi (deceased), were linked to Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH), an offshoot of the Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), as per the chargesheet filed before the NIA special court at Patiala House Courts here, a statement issued by the central agency said. The AQIS and all its manifestations were notified as terrorist organisations by the Ministry of Home Affairs in June 2018.

Charges against Pulwama-based Dr Nabi, an ex-assistant professor at Al-Falah University in Faridabad (Haryana), have been proposed to be abated, the statement said.

Applications open for Carnatic music course at Music Academy Madras

CHENNAI, DHNS: The Music Academy Madras has invited applications for its three-year advanced diploma course in Carnatic music for the academic year beginning July 2026.

The course, conducted by the academy's Advanced School of Carnatic Music, is structured into two semesters every year — from mid-July to the end of November, and from mid-January to the end of April. Examinations will be held at the end of each semester.

Classes will be conducted from Monday to Friday between 8 am and 12.30 pm at the academy premises in Chennai.

Candidates who have completed higher-secondary education and are between 18 and 30 years of age are eligible to apply.

According to a statement from the academy, applicants must be proficient in rendering "varnams" and "kritis", and possess a reasonable level of "manodharma".

The last date for submission of applications is June 15.

Interested candidates can download the application form from the academy's website and email the duly-filled form along with details of their musical training.

For further details, applicants may contact the academy at 044-28112231, 044-28116902, or 044-28115162.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
6th Floor, 2nd Gate, M.S. Building
Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

No.: ED 18 UNE 2026 Date: 14.05.2026

SELECTION OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR TO THE DAVANGERE UNIVERSITY, DAVANGERE.

Invitation of Application for the Post of Vice-Chancellor, Davangere University, Davangere as per Section 14(2) of Karnataka State University Act, 2000.

The Higher Education Department, Government of Karnataka invites Application for the Post of Vice-Chancellor, Davangere University, Davangere. The application should be submitted within Thirty Days (30) from the date of this Notification. The detailed application form and the further details are available on Higher Education Department website **https://hed.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Deputy Secretary to Government (Universities)
Department of Higher Education

DIPR/CP/651/SA//2026-27

Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Kolar Division, Kolar-563101
e-mail: eepwdkolar07@gmail.com
website: www.kpwd.gov.in
e-portal: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Phone No. 08152-222022

e-tender Notification – K.W. 2,3&4 Tender Notification No: 04/2026-27 Dt. 13.05.2026

Tender is invited through e-Procurement for works in the limits of Malur & Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District Public Works Department from the PWD Registered Contractors under **H/A: 8443- Deposit Contribution & 5054-MDR Road** Estimate cost : Minimum: Rs.50.00 Lakhs Maximum: Rs.150.00 Lakhs EMD Amount: mentioned in KPP Portal, Period for completion of work: 06 months. Contractors may download the tender documents KW- 2,3&4 from Karnataka State Procurement portal **(viz., htpp://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Filled in tenders shall be uploaded on or before **16.00 hours. on 27.05.2026** through Karnataka State Procurement portal. Tenders received will be opened after **11.30 hours on 29.05.2026** in KPP portal. Further details regarding the works and also for details about this tender notification please contact KPP portal and also you may contact this office during working hours. **Note:** Any changes in this Notification will be published in KPP portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Kolar
DIPR/KOLAR/RO:70/KSMCA/2026-27

CITY MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION KARNATAKA (CMAK)
(Affiliated to Directorate of Municipal Administration, GoK)
No 42, "Sanjeevini" 1st floor, 4th Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003
Ph: 080-23464332 / 35 URL : www.cmak.municipaladmn.gov.in

No. CMAK/Recruitment/2026-27 Date: 14.05.2026

NOTIFICATION

General Secretary CMAK, Bangalore invites application from interested eligible candidates for CMAK on yearly renewable contractual basis.

Sl NO	Designation	No of Post	Qualification	Age below (as on May 2026)	Consultancy Fees / Remuneration (Consolidated)
1	Research Associate (Water & Waste Water Management)	1 (CMAK)	**Master Degree in Water Resources / Environmental Science / Health & Sanitation Engineering with 2 years' experience in relevant projects / similar fields at Government Sector.** Experienced candidates should have good knowledge of Water & Waste Water Management, Methodologies for conservation, treatment, rainwater harvesting recharge. City Sanitation strategy preparation, city sanitation plan implementation, waste water treatment methods, STP/TTP plant, UGD, Septage and Sludge treatments & water purification methods etc., It is mandatory for the successful candidates to carry out research and are expected to bring out publications in quality reports. Proficiency in both Kannada & English language is must.	35 Years	31850.00
2	Research Associate (Welfare)	1 (DMA)	**Master Degree in Urban Studies / Social Work with 2 years' experience in relevant projects / similar fields at Government Sector.** Experienced candidates should have good knowledge of Public housing, Urban planning development works etc., The Successful Candidates has to carry out research and expected to bring out publications in quality reports. Proficiency in both Kannada & English language is must.	35 Years	31850.00
3	Data Entry Operator	1 (CMAK)	**Any degree from a recognised University with experience in 3 years in Government Sector.** Knowledge of data entry, drafting of letters in Kannada & English, Meeting Proceedings, File correspondence, Computer knowledge in MS Office like MS word, excel & power point presentation etc.,	40 Years	21400.00

Other Terms: **(1)** Candidates shall have willing to travel within India. Knowledge of MS office, proficiency in English & Kannada language is required. The interested candidates may fill the information in the format uploaded in the CMAK website & send along with their resume mentioning post applied with complete information & Contact details along with copies of Degree / Post-graduation certificates & Marks Card, SSLC Marks card for age proof and experience certificates by hand or post to: **General Secretary, City Managers Association Karnataka, No 42, "Sanjeevini" 1st floor, 4th Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore – 560003.** For more details browse **www.cmak.municipaladmn.gov.in.** The candidates should send their application **on or before 27-05-2026 by 5.00 pm.** **(2)** General Secretary, CMAK has right to reject any or all the applications without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- General Secretary, CMAK
& Director, Directorate of Municipal Administration, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/YC/656/2026-27

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

No fair play in this procedure

With the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) deferring Vinesh Phogat's comeback to competitive events, the stand-off between the ace wrestler and the sport's apex governing body in the country has taken a bitter turn. The WFI has issued a show-cause notice to the wrestler citing multiple grounds for her ineligibility including her alleged failure, as a retired athlete, to inform the United World Wrestling (UWW) six months ahead of her intended comeback. While Phogat has dismissed the charges raised in the notice, the WFI's objectives will be under scrutiny, given that she has in the past questioned the functioning of the federation and its former chief and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. A double World Championships bronze medallist, Phogat is preparing for a strong return to the sport and reportedly has the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics in her plans. In its notice, the WFI also noted her disqualification from the final at the Paris Olympics in 2024, following a discrepancy related to her weight category.

The WFI's move against Vinesh Phogat has a non-sporting context that cannot be explained away with rules

Phogat and her supporters see the show-cause notice as the WFI's attempt to stop her from participating in the senior open ranking tournament in Gonda (May 10-12). The WFI is headed by Sanjay Singh, an aide of Brij Bhushan Singh, against whom Phogat and other women wrestlers had raised sexual harassment charges, in 2023. Recently, she also identified herself as one of Brij Bhushan Singh's six victims. This raises questions about the timing of the federation's move. Phogat is preparing to legally challenge the action against her. Some athletes have sought the Union government's intervention in the matter. But nothing is likely to come out of that call – the former WFI boss prevailed at the height of the controversy, even when women wrestlers were staging protests against him on the streets.

The controversy centres on a champion wrestler who has represented India on the global stage and brought multiple laurels to the country. An athlete of her stature deserves all the institutional support as she makes a comeback bid. It was upon the federation to provide Phogat this backing. Instead, it chose to invoke rules and raise unconvincing charges to make her return difficult. It must be noted that Phogat is also a Congress MLA from Haryana. Professionalism and transparency are non-negotiables in the administration of sport. When a high-performing world-class athlete faces such treatment from the administrators, it is a statement on how the system handles the sport and the sportsperson.

Reform must insulate policing from politics

The suspension of more than 700 police personnel in Karnataka in just two years is an indictment of the steady erosion of integrity within the very force entrusted with upholding the law. When those sworn to protect citizens themselves stand accused of grave offences, the crisis transcends misconduct and enters the realm of institutional decay. Of the 713 officers suspended between January 2024 and January 2026, around 400 have already been found guilty and are undergoing punishment. The nature of the allegations is particularly alarming: murder, kidnapping, extortion, facilitating fake passports, tampering with criminal records, shielding gambling and narcotics rackets, and even masterminding a daylight dacoity involving crores of rupees. The rot is not confined to the lower ranks; officers of the Deputy Superintendent rank have been implicated in serious cases, demolishing the comforting illusion that this is merely a problem of rogue constables.

That nearly 60% of these suspensions originate from Bengaluru – a city positioning itself on the global stage – renders the situation especially grave. A police force compromised by corruption and political manipulation cannot command public confidence. Transfers and postings have become an industry driven by politicians, particularly legislators who wield enormous influence over the police. Recommendation letters from MLAs have become unofficial currency within the system. The Police Establishment Board has been reduced to a decorative mechanism while political interference continues unabated. Officers dependent on politicians for lucrative postings inevitably become beholden to their patrons rather than the Constitution. The result is a force that increasingly behaves like an extension of political power instead of an impartial law-enforcement institution.

A compromised force weakens public trust. Independent agencies should investigate its criminality

This is precisely why the Supreme Court, in the landmark Prakash Singh judgment of 2006, mandated sweeping reforms – fixed tenures, independent oversight of transfers, and autonomous complaint authorities – specifically to insulate policing from politics. In Karnataka, as in much of India, these directives remain largely unimplemented. The crisis also begins at the recruitment stage. The infamous Police Sub-Inspector recruitment scam exposed how corruption had infected entry-level selection itself. A compromised recruitment process inevitably produces compromised policing. What is needed is a zero-tolerance policy. Officers accused of grave crimes must face swift trials and summary dismissal upon conviction. Investigations into police criminality should be handed to independent agencies under judicial oversight. Transfers must be completely insulated from political influence, and recruitment processes must be made transparent and tamper-proof. Without these safeguards, the rule of law collapses the moment those entrusted to enforce it become instruments of criminality and political patronage.

FUTURES ON HOLD

Leaking trust: When the State fails its students

The NEET paper leak further exposes systemic inefficiency, demanding credible reforms beyond token assurances

NARASIMHAN VIJAYARAGHAVAN

On the morning of May 3, 2026, over 22 lakh young men and women across India walked into examination halls carrying years of sacrifice – pre-dawn study sessions, family savings strained to their limits, tuition fees borrowed at interest, dreams calibrated to a single number. They were sitting for NEET-UG 2026, the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test, the solitary gateway to MBBS seats in the country. Nine days later, they were told it was all for nothing. The examination was cancelled. A paper had leaked. Again.

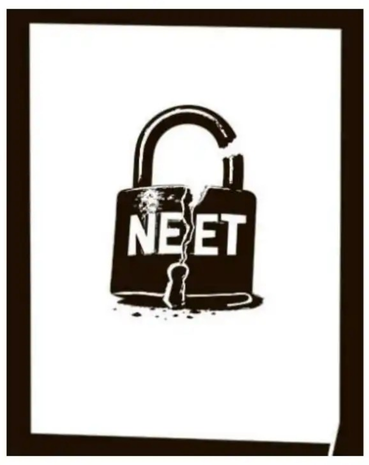
The National Testing Agency (NTA) confirmed on May 12 the cancellation of the test. The Government of India has ordered a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The trigger: Rajasthan Police's Special Operations Group (SOG) discovered a handwritten "guess paper" that had circulated through WhatsApp chains and coaching networks, before it fanned out to Sikar – one of the country's most concentrated coaching districts. Investigators found that approximately 90 Biology questions and 30 Chemistry questions from that document matched the actual NEET paper. One hundred and twenty questions. Not a coincidence.

What makes this catastrophe doubly unconscionable is that it is not the first time. The NEET-UG 2024 scandal was a national inflection point. The Supreme Court of India was compelled to intervene in a matter that consumed its docket for months. The then Chief Justice DY Chandrachud acknowledged from the bench that the NEET paper leak took place and the sanctity of the exam was compromised. The 2024 leak, traced to organised networks in Bihar and Jharkhand, saw students allegedly paying Rs 30 to 50 lakh each for question papers procured a day before the examination.

In an act of institutional forbearance – not exoneration – the Supreme Court declined to cancel the 2024 examination entirely, citing the devastating impact on 24 lakh students who had appeared and the lack of evidence of a wholly systemic breach. It was a narrow escape. The Court then set about laying down protocols, constituting an expert committee under former ISRO chief K Radhakrishnan, and directing structural reforms to cleanse the examination apparatus.

Parliament additionally enacted the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.

The question that burns today is stark and simple: what happened to all of that? What became of the Radhakrishnan Committee's recommendations? What became of the enhanced CCTV protocols, the biometric verification mandates, the sealed-paper transit mechanisms, the intelligence surveillance of coaching networks? If two years after an admitted national scandal – with judicial supervision, expert committee scrutiny,



and fresh legislation – the examination machinery could still be penetrated, the reforms were either cosmetic, unimplemented, or both. Either way, accountability must follow.

With only approximately one lakh MBBS seats available against over 22 lakh aspirants, NEET is not merely a test; it is a civilisational filter. A single rank can mean the difference between a government college seat and a decade of private medical college debt. For students from modest or rural households, this cancellation is not an inconvenience; it is a potential collapse of a life trajectory. The psychological toll on aspirants who have spent two, three, or four years in sustained preparation – and who must now wait for fresh dates yet to be announced – is a wound that no press release can address.

Corrective action is a moral imperative

Heads must roll. That is not rhetorical flourish; it is institutional logic. An Education Minister who presides over a recurring examination catastrophe must be called to account before Parliament and before the public. The NTA, which has now presided over multiple high-profile examination failures, must answer whether it has the structural capacity and personnel integrity to administer examinations of national consequence. Merely ordering a CBI probe and rescheduling the test will not suffice. Those steps are necessary but nowhere near sufficient.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is fond of invoking the nation's youth in his *Mann ki Baat* addresses. On the eve of competitive examinations, he has spoken warmly of aspirants and their families, of the dreams they carry, of the nation's investment in its young talent. Those words now demand a reckoning. The Prime Minister who goes on live television to celebrate milestones must be equally forthcoming in moments of institutional failure. He owes this generation of students an explanation: why, despite the 2024 wake-up call, the examination machinery again collapsed; what specific remedial action has been taken; who will be held criminally accountable; and what guarantee can the State offer that the re-examination will be secure. An apology is warranted. A commitment to reform is essential.

The deeper pathology that NEET's repeated violation exposes is the nexus between organised crime, coaching industry networks, and the examination infrastructure. The paper allegedly circulated for days before the test, passed through multiple hands, and was reportedly sold at escalating prices until it flooded WhatsApp groups overnight. This is not opportunistic mischief; it is a structured criminal enterprise targeting a single-point-of-failure examination. As long as a single paper-and-pen test on a single day determines the fate of millions, the incentive for criminal enterprise will remain overwhelming. Structural reform – disaggregated testing windows, computer-based adaptive examination, multi-stage assessments, independent audit of question-paper custodial chains – is no longer a policy option. It is a moral necessity.

India cannot continue to put 25 lakh futures at risk on the security architecture of a single envelope. The Supreme Court's patience will not be infinite; more critically, the patience of a generation will not be either. The State owes its students not just a re-examination but a rebuilt system, honest accountability, and the political courage to say, plainly: we failed you, and this is what we are doing to ensure it never happens again.

(The writer is a practising advocate in the Madras High Court)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Leading life, one frame at a time

Though I was not fat, I had earned the moniker *boodu kumbalakai*

SRIDHARA BHADRAVATI

My frame – physical, not mental – has always given me mixed feelings, due to reactions it has evoked from others since my childhood.

The earliest I can recollect is when my higher primary school teacher would call me to his side and threaten me in front of the whole class that he would slice off my plump cheeks and prepare 'chop pieces'. He would pinch my cheeks and say that together they would make a *boodu kumbalakai*, which is Kannada for 'ash gourd'. The children would, of course, laugh merrily, as the joke was on me, and that moniker had stuck for years, which I bitterly resented.

My cheeks were rather plump, and the *kakas* who sat in petty shops, where I had to go on errands at Mom's behest, could not just resist the temptation to pinch them. But I was not fat; only my cheeks were.

Much later, when I was in Mysuru for holidays, my cousin Parameshwar took me out with his hostel mates for a long ride, and all of them hired a bicycle each, except me, since I had not yet learned cycling. One of them accepted me for a double ride, remarking that I was, anyway, thin and weak. But my cousin promptly told him that I had a good frame, which, when filled up, would look fine. I was pleasantly surprised and felt thankful.

Later on, the fitness fad caught up with me. I did yoga regularly and was still not satisfied; I went to our company's gym as well. After some months a friend saw me and expressed surprise that my physique looked robust. I was elated.

My career took me to Pune, and there I went to a guru*ji* five mornings a week and practised serious yoga. Sometime later I went to a doctor for medicals for a high-value insurance policy. He looked at me searchingly and asked me to strip to the waist.

While his assistant was taking my measurements, the doctor asked me: "How did you develop this physique?" I told him about my guru*ji* and yoga, and he told me it was unbelievable, shaking his head. Well, I, on the other hand, felt very proud. I had finally arrived!

And much, much later, that is, last year, when I turned 74, I suffered a heart condition and went into the ICU. Released after two days, only to get a pacemaker implanted.

Well, within a matter of 15 days, I had lost seven kilos. My surgeon had noted on my case sheet: a male, 74-year-old, moderately built and nourished! I grinned wryly. What a journey it has been, from being *boodu kumbalakai* to thin and weak to a robust and impressive physique back to moderately built!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NTA should hire experts to plug the leak

I refer to 'Paper leak and a credibility test' (May 14). The editorial overlooks that these persistent leaks of question papers are a problem of law and order and crime and not just a fault in the NTA examination system. The spoils of this unlawful activity are considerable. If just 1% of the students bought these leaked papers—22,000 were allegedly involved of the 22 lakh appearing—the criminals stand to profit in hundreds of crores. Tightening the system alone is not enough. It requires a very clever set of law enforcement experts to anticipate where and how the criminals will get their hands on the question papers; identify the most greedy paper setters, printing press employees, etc.; and take steps to nip this unlawful activity in the bud. The NTA will do well to recruit such experts, and in the meantime, as a nation, we should hang our heads in shame that we are not able to protect the future of our country—our youngsters.

Kishore Rao, Bengaluru

A redundant ideology

I refer to the column 'Can the CPI(M) turn its electoral rout into an opportunity?' (May 14). For the first time in several decades no state in the country has a Communist government, and the rout in Kerala, where the LDF won just 35 seats against the 102 secured by the Congress-led UDF, was clearly the last straw that broke the camel's back. Incidentally, the LDF had created history by coming to power in Kerala twice consecutively in 2021; the Kerala voters had never in the past voted for the same coalition twice in a row. But the misgovernance of the Pinarayi government and the several scams that rocked the LDF's boat ensured the LDF's rout this time. The communist ideology has been on the wane for years now; cadre strength has been diminishing, and the morale of the party workers continues to be low. Communism is already extinct in several countries, and in India it is on its last leg.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Gold's cultural tug

The recent hike in gold import duties forces a confrontation between India's fiscal necessity and its deep-seated cultural psyche. While curbing non-essential imports is vital for stabilising the rupee and narrowing the current account deficit, gold remains a sanctuary of security rather than a mere commodity. Taxation alone cannot dismantle centuries of ancestral trust; instead, it risks fuelling the grey market and social discontent.

Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The government of India will not spare Rahul Gandhi. This is new India. There are cameras installed everywhere. We have released just a small ledger today. There are umpteen papers and facts available.

Sambit Patra,
BJP MP (Raising questions on Rahul Gandhi's foreign visits, including his 'mystery trips')

The magician and the politician have much in common: they both have to draw our attention away from what they are really doing.

Ben Okri

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

'Modi Tattva' and a study in reverence

A new course module on the Prime Minister places personality above real analysis and critical inquiry

AKASH JASH

A few weeks ago, the Department of Sociology at the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda announced a new paper titled 'Sociology of Patriotism'. Among its modules is one called 'Modi Tattva' – the essence, or principle, of Modi – to be studied alongside the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Chhatrapati Shivaji, and Sayajirao Gaekwad III. The department head, defending the choice, invoked Max Weber: this was simply a sociological study of charismatic authority, comparable to analyses of Gandhi or Martin Luther King. "Whether you like it or not," he said, "you will have to discuss PM Modi".

The framing is, in principle, unobjectionable. Modi is plainly a legitimate object of sociological inquiry; refusing to study him would itself be a kind of failure. But the way an inquiry is framed is an inquiry's first finding. And with every framing choice this course has made, sociology has already conceded ground to its object. Three things deserve our attention here.

The first is vocabulary. 'Patriotism' is not a sociological category; 'Nationalism' is. The discipline has long preferred the latter because it permits the object to be examined rather than affirmed. 'Tattva', likewise, is a term of Indic-philosophical reverence, i.e., essence or principle, not of analysis. We do not have 'Kemal Tattva' in Turkish Sociology, nor 'Stalin Tattva' in Russian. The vocabulary positions the analyst inside, not outside, the worldview being studied. A discipline that adopts the affective register of its object has already surrendered the discipline's first task.

The second is structure. Placing a sitting Prime Minister in a syllabic line with monumentalised historical figures performs the canonical pedagogical work of personality-cult formation. The student is invited to read the contemporary figure through the reverential register reserved for memorialised ones. The discipline has a sociology of precisely this – Christel Lane on Stalin, Stephen Holmes on Atatürk, Robert Jay Lifton on Mao. The lesson of that literature is simple: the cult does not arrive announcing itself. It arrives as an ordinary curriculum.

The third point is the most consequential and invisible, unless one looks closely. The department head who designed this course is also, by his own statement, a member of a NITI Aayog project monitoring government schemes. The same person, in his policy role, is evaluating the government's projects and teaching students that the government's head is an object of analysis in charismatic leadership. This is not a problem of personal politics. It is a problem of Role. In a more robust academic culture, this overlap would require disclosure, perhaps recusal. It does not, because the institutional norms that would have flagged it have already eroded.

Consent by attrition

Today's Indian university shows a consolidation: the policy adviser, curriculum designer, and department head are all one person, creating an internal interlock within individual biographies. Andre Beteille's deepest insight about the Indian university was that its character rested not on its statutes but on its mores – the informal conventions of academic civility, the unspoken protocol that the Vice-Chancellor does not interfere with examiners, that the department debates its own syllabus based on disciplinary reasons, that the discipline polices its own vocabulary. These conventions are easy to mock when they hold and impossible to recover when they break. The MSU case is not a violation of any law. It is a violation of mores. No regulator will intervene; no court will rule. And precisely because nothing visible has been broken, the case will be remembered, if at all, as a curricular update.

This is what manufactured consent looks like in 2026 – not at the level of a captive press but at the level of the discipline itself. The consent manufactured here is sociology's own. A whole department signed off on a course whose vocabulary and structure are inconsistent with the discipline's methodological commitments. No one was coerced. The consent was given by attrition – by the slow accumulation of small decisions in which academic precarity, political alignment, and institutional reward happened to point in the same direction.

Throughout his career, Beteille worried that India's universities were fragile public institutions, easier to destroy than to build. The destruction, he warned, would come not as dramatic capture but as ordinary administration. The genius of the MSU case is precisely its ordinariness. No one was arrested. No one resigned. No police entered the campus. A department updated a syllabus. And in doing so, it conceded – by a vocabulary, a structure, and an interlock – the discipline's most basic commitment: that to study a worldview, one must not be entirely inside it.

(The writer is an assistant professor in the Department of Liberal Arts, Amity University, Bengaluru)

Rebalancing the relationship between the State and the citizen

R BALASUBRAMANIAM

In every democracy, the gap between those who govern and those who are governed is not merely administrative. It is moral. When the State holds more information, more power, and more discretion than the citizen it is meant to serve, democracy becomes, over time, a spectacle rather than a lived reality. India has long grappled with this asymmetry, and what is heartening today is that we are beginning to address it in earnest.

The Indian administrative system was not designed for participation. It was designed for compliance. Inherited from a colonial architecture whose purpose was extraction and control, it placed the official at the centre and the citizen at the periphery. Decades of democratic governance softened its edges but did not alter its DNA. The bureaucratic instinct remained one of gatekeeping, and citizens continued to approach the State as petitioners, often unsure of their entitlements and even less sure of their rights.

What is changing today is not merely the infrastructure of governance but its philosophy. The principle of *Jan Bhagidari*, people's participation in their own governance, marks a quiet but consequential shift. It signals a movement from the State doing things for people to the State doing things with people. This is not a cosmetic change. It is a civilisational one. It draws from a long tradition of Indian thought that recognises the individual not as a subject of power but as the very source of it.

Swami Vivekananda's insistence that the divine resides in every human being finds a contemporary echo in *Nagrik Devo Bhava*, which is treating the citizen as one would a revered guest.

The broader vision of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas*, articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, captures this philosophy with clarity. Each dimension speaks directly to the asymmetry problem.

Shared partnership challenges the monopoly of power. The democratisation of opportunity challenges the monopoly of benefit. Trust demands that the State earn legitimacy through transparency rather than command it through authority. Collective effort refuses to let governance remain the exclusive preserve of officialdom. Together, these principles constitute not just a political slogan but the architecture of a participatory State.

At the heart of this reorientation lies *antyodaya*, the ancient commitment to reaching the last person first. Power and information asymmetries are most acute at the margins. The Jenukurubas and Bettakurubas, the tribes of Heggadevanakote, among whom I worked for over four decades, understood intuitively that the State was something that happened to them rather than something that served them. Their experience was representative of millions who live at the edge of access and visibility.

Antyodaya insists that governance is measured not by how it treats those at the centre but by how reliably it reaches those at the periphery.

India's digital public infrastructure has done more to erode informational asymmetry in the last decade than any previous reform. Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, and direct benefit transfers have reduced the intermediaries who once thrived on opacity. Citizens can now verify entitlements, track transactions, and access services without depending on an official's goodwill. Yet digital efficiency is not the same as digital democracy.

The next frontier must be participatory dashboards, open data ecosystems, and feedback loops that allow citizens to audit governance themselves. Information symmetry is necessary but not sufficient. What must accompany it is trust symmetry.

This is where Mission Karmayogi and the Capacity Building Commission (CBC) become important. The CBC is attempting something that administrative reform has rarely managed: changing not just what civil servants do but how they think. The competency frameworks, digital learning pathways, and behavioural modules under the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building are designed to produce a civil servant who sees the citizen not as a petitioner to be managed but as a stakeholder to be engaged. The shift from a compliance-driven to a citizen-centred mindset is subtle but profound. Culture is harder to reform than structure, and the CBC is working on culture.

None of this transformation will be swift or seamless. Institutional inertia is real. The habits of a century and a half do not yield easily to even the most well-intentioned reform. But the direction is right. The vocabulary of governance is visibly evolving from authority to empathy, from secrecy to openness, and from doing for to doing with.

What India is slowly building is not an erosion of State capacity but its moral renewal. A State that shares power does not become weaker. It becomes more legitimate. A State that shares information does not lose authority. It gains trust. And a State that treats its citizens as partners rather than subjects does not diminish itself. It fulfils the promise on which it was founded.

In this quiet, unfinished, but unmistakable shift lies the possibility of a more equal republic. One where governance is not a transaction between rulers and the ruled but a partnership between citizens and the State that exists, ultimately, to serve them.

(The writer is the founder of SVYM and a former member of the CBC)

Fatih Birol of the International Energy Agency, who orchestrated a multinational release of oil reserves, detailed the risks facing the economy now and beyond

ESHE NELSON

According to Fatih Birol, the IEA's executive director and one of the world's top energy economists, the damage from the energy crisis engulfing the global economy is still in the making. NYT

An uncertain world awaits the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz

The energy crisis engulfing the global economy will not end until the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway off Iran's southern coast, reopens to traffic, the head of the International Energy Agency said this week.

And even then, the path ahead would remain deeply uncertain.

Fatih Birol, the International Energy Agency's executive director and one of the world's top energy economists, said that global efforts to mitigate the pain caused by the severe disruption to the production and export of oil and gas from West Asia might not prevent conditions from worsening. The interruption in energy is also having significant knock-on effects in global agriculture, in which the rising cost of fertilisers could push up food prices into the future, he said.

"The single most important solution to this problem today is fully and unconditionally opening up of the Strait of Hormuz," Birol said Tuesday in an interview in Paris with *The New York Times*. But, right now, "we are far from having this situation, and so, the economic damage is still in the making."

For weeks, Birol has warned about the broad toll of the war between the United States, Israel and Iran. The IEA has said that the conflict has caused "the largest supply disruption in the history of the global oil market." On Wednesday, the agency said that oil output from Persian Gulf countries was more than 14 million barrels a day below their prewar levels, which was depleting global inventories at a record pace.

In response to soaring energy prices in the initial weeks of the conflict, the agency coordinated the biggest release of oil reserves — 400 million barrels — among its member nations. It could organise the release of more in the future, Birol said. He added that about 40 countries were also following some of the agency's suggestions on how to reduce energy demand, including further subsidising public transportation and encouraging working from home.

The IEA, based in Paris, has about 500 employees and is a kind of global energy think tank, largely funded through nations it advises on energy policies. The agency was established as a counterweight to OPEC after the oil shock caused by the 1973-1974 Arab oil embargo.

Just as that period changed the global economy, driving many nations to rethink their oil dependencies, today's conflict is likely to permanently reshape global energy flows and alliances, Birol said.

Many countries are already weighing how to prioritise security of supply and not just price when choosing where to buy fuel. In addition, he said, it would take a long time for exporters in West Asia to recover from the damage done to the world's perception of them as reliable suppliers.

At the same time, he said he was urging other countries, including Canada, to increase their exports. Others, such as Brazil and Australia, could do so over time, especially if Asian countries look for new suppliers, he added.

"Energy security priorities will dominate energy policies in the next few years," Birol said, with countries increasing domestic production as much as possible. That will not only include renewable energy, but also nuclear and coal production.

In a sign of how the crisis is already realigning the global energy system, Nigeria asked this week to strengthen its ties with the IEA and become a so-called association country, which would mean collaborating on energy security, data and policy with other member nations. It is the first time a member of OPEC, which is dominated by Saudi Arabia, has asked to join the IEA.

The agency is also building ties with the United Arab Emirates, which recently left OPEC after nearly six decades of membership. On Wednesday, Birol said he spoke with Sultan al-Jaber, a minister and head of the state oil company. He said they had discussed "the avenues to build institutional ties" between the UAE and the IEA.

On China's resilience

Birol spoke with the *Times* just before President Donald Trump arrived in Beijing for a delayed State visit. Trump this week described the ceasefire with Iran as being on "life support." China, the biggest buyer of Iranian oil, has so far not come to the aid of Iran or offered a plan to reopen the strait.

While many Asian economies depend heavily on oil and gas exports via the strait, Birol noted that China was in a different, more resilient situation.

More than half of new car sales in China are electric vehicles. "This is not driven by, as some people say, by environmental ambitions," Birol said. "This was energy security policy." The country also has 1.2 billion barrels in oil reserves, the same level as all IEA members combined, he added.

"I very much hope that the summit between the two major economies' leaders will address this energy security issue for the benefit of, not only for these two countries, but for Asia and beyond," he added.

On Asia's shock

This crisis "is a big wake-up call for Asia," Birol said. The region, an engine for the global economy, will have to review its energy strategies after becoming too dependent on exports from the West Asia, he added. Asia buys about 90% of the liquefied natural gas that West Asia produces.

That would likely lead to an increase in coal use, he said, a worrisome development in global efforts to transition away from the fossil fuels propelling climate change.

Birol also predicted huge growth in the take up of electric cars, which would have major implications for the car manufacturing industry, where Chinese vehicles would further eat into the former domination of Japanese and Korean brands.

On jet fuel shortages

"I still see jet fuel as a serious challenge," Birol said this week, having earlier predicted that Europe would run out of jet fuel in six to eight weeks if it couldn't come up with alternative supplies.

"I wouldn't be surprised if this reduction of flights" continues and ticket prices go up, he said. "The situation is still dire in terms of jet fuel availability."

Meanwhile, With both Iran and the United States exerting control in and around parts of the Strait of Hormuz, securing safe passage for commercial ships — even those without Iranian links — remains opaque and difficult.

The United States Central Command said on Tuesday that its forces had redirected 65 commercial vessels and disabled four ships amid an American blockade on Iranian ports imposed last month — three vessels had been redirected since it reported on Monday. Not all were Iranian or linked to Iran.

Iran, for its part, on Tuesday asserted that "the scope of the Strait of Hormuz has been significantly expanded" and had "transformed into a vast operational region," according to Mohammad Akbarzadeh, the political deputy of the Navy of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, in a televised interview.

As a result, vessels in the region are increasingly travelling without transmitting critical information meant to keep the waters safe in normal conditions, maritime intelligence experts say.

"There is a 600% rise in dark activity," said Ami Daniel, the chief executive of Windward, a maritime intelligence firm. Many ships are turning off not only the transponders that transmit their locations but also the radars that allow them to detect other ships, he said.

The New York Times

Regulate forest trails, don't shut them down

JAGMOHAN SHARMA

Karnataka has suspended the use of paths and trails inside forest areas with wildlife presence. The order is effective from May 11 till further notice. It is prompted by the death of a 10-year-old boy who was attacked by a leopard in the Nagamale Forest of the MM Hills, Chamarajanagar district, on May 10. How does the May 11 suspension order provide relief on the ground? Does the pace of administrative action suggest an 'order-first and think-later' approach? How does the order take into account the standard operating procedure (SOP) for trekking in forests, notified just this April?

The trekking SOP was notified when, in two separate incidents, trekkers lost their path, and while one was traced and rescued, the other was found dead inside the forest. Developed by the Karnataka Forest Department, the SOP is a comprehensive regulatory and prescriptive document with mandatory online registration, safety briefings, one nature guide for every 10 trekkers, a cap of 150 persons per trail, GPS-enabled communication, and base-camp monitoring. It clearly recognises the risks inside forests and promotes guided access, not casual entry.

The SOP, however, does not cover the movement of devotees to temples within forests, nor that of people visiting forest-enclosure villages. People moving loosely through a wildlife-conflict-prone landscape is not the same as a supervised trek run under published rules, fixed group sizes, trained guides and live communication systems. Movement inside forests demands wildlife-risk communication, route management, and emergency response.

According to news reports, the Nagamale tragedy involved a family group that had entered the forests at the MM Hills temple. How should the risk to temple devotees and visitors to forest-enclosure villages from provoked or unprovoked attacks by wild animals be managed? Should the movement be regulated? How? What institutional and infrastructural arrangements are necessary to regulate?

The Nagamale incident highlights a governance gap, as no mechanism is in place to handhold the unsupervised visits to the forests. In this regard, the readily available Aranya Vihaara digital platform of the Karnataka Forest Department, which manages publicly administered routes with advanced booking systems, reporting instructions, slot controls, and track-specific advisories, can be easily adapted. While the government can provide the physical infrastructure to manage visits of those not undertaking organised treks in forests, the trained manpower can be sourced from civil society organisations and private individuals on a commercial basis.

Recognised and authorised organisations can provide nature guide training to address the availability of trained manpower for nature interpretation and guided movement inside forests. Such training provides opportunities, including for tribal and rural youth in forested areas, to work as guides, naturalists, and ecopreneurs. They can accompany the people visiting temples and forest-enclosure villages in forest areas and ensure their safety.

Visits to forests, whether to undertake structured trekking activity or for pilgrimage, need not be prohibited but limited to the carrying capacity. The public policy in this regard cannot lurch between promotion and prohibition. The extant policy framework is people-centric and adopts a precautionary approach. The GOI National Tiger Conservation Authority's ecotourism framework also points to low-impact, rule-bound public access within ecological limits.

Karnataka's April SOP broadly followed that logic through carrying-capacity rules, registration, tracking and guiding accountability. Karnataka now has a choice. It can continue with headline-friendly closures that project urgency but evade responsibility. Or it can do the harder, more credible thing: classify routes by ecological sensitivity and difficulty level; make naturalist-led movement inside forests non-negotiable; enforce real-time compliance; shut down only those stretches that are seasonally dangerous or administratively non-compliant; and communicate risks up front.

Forests are habitats first, and wildlife is not to blame for conflicts arising from governance gaps. Neither should local livelihoods be sacrificed to overreaction. Homestays, transport operators, food vendors, guides and small eco-tourism enterprises have grown around legal, supervised access to natural areas; they need stable rules, not fitful shutdowns.

Suspending the use of paths and trails in forest areas is no substitute for guided access, route-level oversight, and consistent enforcement.

(The writer is a former Indian Forest Service officer, Karnataka Cadre)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MAY 1976

India will prevent border breach

New Delhi, May 14
All necessary measures have been taken by the Government of India to meet the grave situation created by the threat issued by Maulana Bhashani and his followers of marching on Farakka on Sunday, an official spokesman said today. He said that while precautionary steps had been taken to prevent any violence or violation of borders, it was the responsibility of the Bangla Desh Government to prevent the march. Yesterday, the Bangla Desh High Commissioner, Mr. Shamsur Rahman, was summoned to the Foreign Office and asked to convey New Delhi's concern to Dacca.

25 YEARS AGO: MAY 2001

Jayalalitha takes over as CM

Chennai, May 14
The AIADMK General Secretary, Ms J Jayalalitha, who led her party to an unprecedented landslide victory in the just-concluded elections to the Tamil Nadu Assembly, today took over as chief minister, ending uncertainty over her eligibility to occupy her post following her disqualification from contesting elections in the wake of her conviction in two corruption cases. Tamil Nadu Governor Fatima Bivi swore in Ms Jayalalitha within hours of her unanimous election as leader of the 132-member AIADMK legislature party. The Governor invited her to form the government and submit the list of ministers.

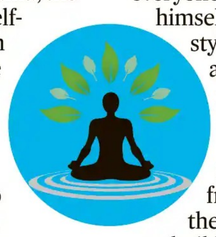
OASIS | SUDHA DEVI NAYAK

The essence of leadership

In a world that appears to be going through a leadership crisis, the age-old question of whether leaders are born or made still hangs fire. There are those who are born with capabilities and an instinct for leadership, but these inherent qualities need to be honed to emerge as leaders. There are others who become leaders through learning, experience, wisdom and practice of discipline, empathy and a passion to work for the betterment of fellow beings.

Leadership is about empowerment not only of oneself but also of all those who surround you, to inspire in them a sense of loyalty so that they identify themselves wholly with the vision of the leader. A powerful vision is like a magnet, and visionaries are agents of change.

According to the Dalai Lama, the chief traits of a leader are selflessness and a deep concern that makes him responsible for the well-being of others. His chief motivation is compassion, the ability to understand people's difficulties and take steps to tackle violence, corruption, inequality, and sins that plague society.



There are three styles of compassionate leadership: the trailblazer who leads from the front, takes risks and sets an example; the ferryman who accompanies those in his care and navigates the ups and downs of crossing; and the shepherd who sees everyone of his flock to safety before himself. Three approaches, three styles, but they have in common an all-encompassing concern for the welfare of those they lead.

Leaders have a positive role in influencing behaviour; from the head of a family to the head of a state, leaders have to build and hold the trust of people. The counsel of a Hindu yogi to Alexander the Great, who asks him, "How may a man make himself beloved?" was, "A man will be beloved if possessed with great powers; still, he does not make himself feared."

Good leaders discover solutions, confront problems, usher in change, and have an air of simplicity that makes them eminently approachable. Crucial decisions are taken when challenges arise in the absence of precedent and a leader needs to think on his feet without losing focus or compassion and without compromising justice and fairness.

Above all, he must carry people with him, and in this context we are reminded of the story of Spartacus, the rebel slave leader. Each one of his captured fellow slaves in a show of solidarity with their leader says, "I am Spartacus" to protect him from crucifixion. That is the crux of leadership.

Kuki-Naga hostage crisis in Manipur after killing of church leaders

Talks underway with civil society groups and leaders to ensure civilians are released soon

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

At least 38 members of the Kuki and Naga communities have been held hostage at separate locations in Manipur, state home minister Govindas Konthoujam Singh said on Thursday.

The hostage crisis unfolded on Wednesday, hours after four persons, including three Thadou church leaders, were killed in Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi and Naga-dominated Noney. Thadous are part of the greater Kuki-Zo communities.

"We could not sleep the whole night as we continued our efforts to secure their safe release. We are in talks with the civil society organisations and political leaders from both Kuki and Naga communities to ensure that the innocent civilians are released without any harm," Singh said during his visit to a hospital in Noney district where a few injured persons were admitted.

Family members of Wilson Thanga, who was killed in Manipur's Noney district on Wednesday evening, mourn in Imphal. PTI

Janghaolun Haokip, information secretary of the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), said at least 34 of the hostages belong to the Kuki-Zo communities.

"Six are from Ireng Naga-Kangchup area in Kangpokpi district while 28 are from Senapati. But we are not sure about the exact numbers at this moment," he said, and appealed for peace.

Shutdown hits life

Life remained paralysed on Thursday due to the 48-hour "total shutdown" called by several Kuki-Zo organisations to protest against the killing of the church leaders. The organisations demanded immediate arrest of those involved in crime.

Singh said security agencies were trying to identify those involved in the attacks and arrest them.

CM assures safe return of IDPs to their homes

Manipur Chief Minister Y Khemchand Singh on Thursday assured the safe return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their respective homes and said adequate security arrangements would be provided for their rehabilitation.

TTD ex-chairman alleges Rs 48-cr scam in ticket sales

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Former Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy — currently a part of the Opposition YSR Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh — has alleged a Rs 48-crore scam in the sale of Tirumala temple darshan tickets over the last few months after a new software system was introduced.

Reddy said on Thursday that the scam involved members of the TTD's Vigilance and IT Departments, as well as its Board.

"All 800 Srivani darshan tickets allotted in a day are being sold in just over one minute, which is surprising, and middlemen are allegedly selling them outside for Rs 15,000," he said.

"This is being done with the connivance of the IT and Vigilance Departments and people on the Board. In just four months, about Rs 48 crore has allegedly been looted by them," he said.

Despite the TTD's claims about updating its software, the tickets were not reaching genuine devotees but were being routed through middlemen who were reaping huge profits, he alleged.

The YSRCP has demanded a high-level inquiry into the alleged irregularities in the sale of Srivani tickets, alleging that the online system was faulty and prone to rampant corruption.

Telangana plans downsizing of anti-Maoist force

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

As Maoist activities have nearly come to an end, Telangana Police are considering downsizing and restructuring the Greyhounds force by assessing the minimum strength required to tackle future crises.

The Greyhounds are an elite special forces unit of the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Police, established in 1989 specifically to combat Naxalite-Maoist insurgency through specialised jungle warfare. Known for their intensive training, they are regarded as one of India's premier anti-insurgency forces, focusing on intelligence-driven operations and guerrilla tactics.

Telangana DGP CV Anand visited the Greyhounds headquarters on Thursday and conducted a comprehensive review meeting on various operational and administrative aspects of the elite force. He reviewed operational activities carried out by the Greyhounds and assessed their performance in anti-Maoist operations and other assigned duties.

The DGP also reviewed existing training standards, curriculum and training modules being imparted to personnel, emphasising the need for continuous upgradation in line with evolving operational requirements.

During the review, the DGP instructed the Greyhounds leadership to further enhance operational efficiency and maintain a high level of combat readiness. He stressed the importance of regular firing practice and rigorous training standards to keep the force mission-ready at all times.

He also reviewed issues relating to the reduction in Greyhounds strength in view of declining Maoist activities. Anand informed officers that a proposal concerning 708 surrendered posts in the Greyhounds is currently pending with the government. He added that notified repatriations would be carried out after receiving the necessary orders from the government.

Delhi bus horror rekindles Nirbhaya memories as woman gang-raped, thrown out

NEW DELHI, PTI: Recalling the horrors of the 2012 Nirbhaya case, a 30-year-old woman was allegedly dragged inside a private sleeper bus and raped by the driver and conductor in northwest Delhi's Mangolpuri area, police said on Thursday. The two men have been arrested.

The assault, which brought back memories of the Delhi gangrape-murder of the 23-year-old 'Nirbhaya', took place on May 11.

Recapping the events of the night, police sources said the woman was returning home after working at a factory in Mangolpuri. When she reached near the B-Block bus stand in Saraswati Vihar, she saw a man standing near the bus door and asked him the time. The man then allegedly dragged her inside the bus, drove the vehicle towards Nangloi and raped her.

According to the statement of the woman, who is married and has three children, both men raped her in turn.

The bus was stationed near the Nangloi metro station while the woman was assaulted, a police officer said.

The bus has been seized.

Based on the woman's statement, the FIR was lodged under sections 64(1) (rape), 70(1) (gang-rape) and 3(5) (common intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) on May 12, the DCP said.

Reacting to the incident, former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said on X: "We learned nothing from Nirbhaya. This incident is a stain on the entire society."

According to the National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB) "Crime in India 2024" report, Delhi recorded the highest number of crimes against women among 19 metropolitan cities, with 13,396 cases registered in the year.

According to recent reports, a total of 1,058 rape cases were reported in 2024.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

SO, WHAT'S FOR DINNER, SWEETHEART?
YOU CAN HAVE YOUR CHOICE, HONEY...
MACARONI OR CHEESE
SOMEBODY MUST HAVE HAD A LONG DAY
SOMEBODY SURE DID!

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

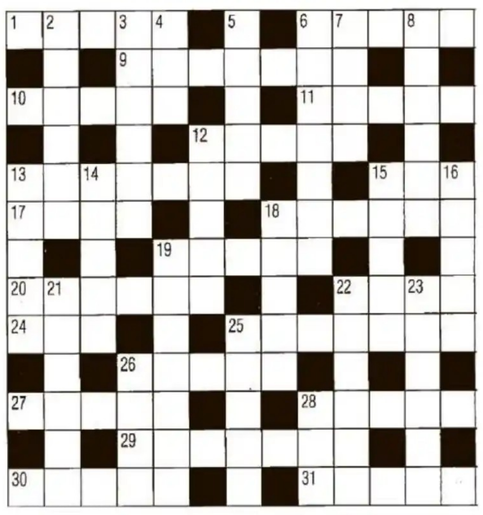
YOU KNOW THE SAYING, SIR...
A MESSY DESK IS A SIGN OF A BUSY PERSON
BUT IT ISN'T USUALLY COVERED WITH BEAUTY PRODUCTS
GREG + MORT WALKER

Peanuts

I MAILED MY MANUSCRIPT YESTERDAY.. SO WHAT HAPPENS? ZERO!
MY BOOK ISN'T IN ANY OF THE STORES OR ON A SINGLE BEST-SELLER LIST! WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT! WHAT A BLOW!
YOU'RE THE MOST IMPATIENT AUTHOR I'VE EVER SEEN...
OH, YEAH? WELL, WHAT ABOUT MY ROYALTY STATEMENT? WHERE'S MY ROYALTY STATEMENT?

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12417



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 A doctor I have to push (5)
6 A growing cause of pain, formerly (5)
9 Unreasonably detains as a substitute (7)
10 Good place for a pilgrimage (5)
11 Noble groundsmen? (5)
12 Remaining indisposed to go by road (5)
13 Go between me and the girl making tea (7)
15 When you have a contraction, sit back (3)
17 Had he no navel? (4)
18 Stiffener not exactly to search for? (6)
19 The cracks that may appear first (5)
20 Angelic supporter? (6)
22 Painting a bud is bad (4)
24 Live in a minaret (3)
25 The author made short work of it (7)
26 Numerals in black and blue (5)
27 Concerning a seaman at the youth centre (5)
28 There's goodness in food that's a bit tasty (5)
29 Great artist, possibly a help to an academician (7)
30 Flat on the floor (5)
31 Woman of wisdom? (5)

ACROSS
1 Unit of gem weight (5)
6 Pocket (5)
9 Produce (7)
10 Buffalo (5)
11 Large spoon (5)
12 Herb (5)
13 Money (7)
15 Animal doctor (3)
17 Beers (4)
18 Procession (6)
19 Got up (5)
20 Rattled (6)
22 Crooked (4)
24 Age (3)
25 Denies (7)
26 Float (5)
27 Yields (5)
28 Take unlawfully (5)
29 Dregs (7)
30 War-horse (5)
31 Strayed (5)

DOWN
2 Beast (6)
3 Beautiful youth (6)
4 Number (3)
5 Essential (5)
6 Aquatic bird (7)
7 Spoken (4)
8 Shouted (6)
12 Bowl (5)
13 Reason (5)
14 Type of nut (5)
15 Servant (5)
16 Canvas shelters (5)
18 Man's name (5)
19 Rested (7)
21 Frank (6)
22 Dairy product (6)
23 Nullify (6)
25 Sap (5)
26 In this place (4)
28 Prosecute (3)

DOWN
2 Staggered half a mile among the wild deer (6)
3 Both boys beat him up (6)
4 She points to one (3)
5 The people with strange taste (5)
6 The bighead apportions things by vote! (7)
7 Figure one has only half a dollar (4)
8 Ivanhoe's dad cried distractedly when caught (6)
12 A step or half step on something thin (5)
13 It's dangerous, so get mother out of Birkenhead! (5)
14 Move rhythmically and possibly at half pace (5)
15 It can lead to error (5)
16 Bachelor girl, an ancient queen's associate (5)
18 Put up with having no seat (5)
19 Change an article for some music (7)
21 Like a cultivated area maybe outside the British Library (6)
22 Besmirch with a terrible lie when fed up! (6)
23 Some mogul's territory – in Ireland! (6)
25 It's dark, and a shade deadly? (5)
26 Temptation to bend a rule (4)
28 Go out of shape periodically (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12416

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 4, Mobile 7, Lose hope 8, Deadly 10, E-le-Ct. 13, Tang 14, Pith 15, Ye-LL 16, Pah 17, Avon 19, I-ran 21, Groun-d-sel 23, Mi-mi 24, Eats 26, Nag 27, Co.-Rd. 29, Elan 32, Seas 33, Stage 34, Re-miss 35, I'm-proved 36, Spikes.
DOWN: 1, Bleep 2, Asset 3, W-hat 4, Medal 5, Brag 6, Lil-lan 9, Enlist 11, Lid 12, C-harm 13, Tenners (tenors) 15, You (ewe) 16, Pa-L 18, Voices 20, Reset 21, Gig 22, Dad 23, Make up 25, L-ag 28, Oasis 30, Larva 31, N-Eddy 32, Silk 33, Sari.
EASY
ACROSS: 4, Of note 7, Persists 8, Cinema 10, Amass 13, Lane 14, Tuna 15, Jars 16, For 17, Beat 19, Tram 21, Norwegian 23, Veto 24, Roll 26, Bit 27, Dead 29, Lees 32, Heal 33, Eyrie 34, Stress 35, Exterior 36, Propel.
DOWN: 1, Sprat 2, Groan 3, Kiss 4, Oscar 5, None 6, Tom-tom 9, Instil 11, Mug 12, Sabot 13, Lateral 15, Jaw 16, Fan 18, Erodes 20, Rally 21, Net 22, God 23, Victor 25, Lei 28, Easel 30, Ernie 31, Seers 32, Help 33, Eden.

◆ SU-DO-KU-6906 ◆

	4			8				7
	5		3	2		1		
1		8						3
		3						
5	7		1		8		2	9
						5		
4						7		2
		5		7	6		4	
9				1			6	

hard

SOLUTION TO 6905

8	2	7	9	3	5	1	4	6
6	1	4	7	2	8	3	9	5
3	9	5	4	1	6	2	8	7
5	7	8	1	6	3	9	2	4
1	6	9	5	4	2	7	3	8
4	3	2	8	9	7	6	5	1
7	4	1	2	5	9	8	6	3
2	5	6	3	8	1	4	7	9
9	8	3	6	7	4	5	1	2

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							RACK 1
I1	I1	O1	S1	N1	M3	M3	
							RACK 2
I1	E1	M3	S1	D2	S1	U1	
							RACK 3
R1	K5	S1	B3	C3	A1	E1	Triple Word Score
							RACK 4
L1	O1	A1	E1	T1	G2	A1	Double Word Score

PAR SCORE 115-125
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

F4	E1	V4	E1	R1	E1	D2	RACK 1 =	92
L1	A1	D2	E1	N1	E1	D2	RACK 2 =	59
R1	A1	C3	I1	S1	M3		RACK 3 =	16
J8	U1	G2	G2	L1	E1	D2	RACK 4 =	84
							JUDD'S TOTAL	251

PAR SCORE 165-175

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

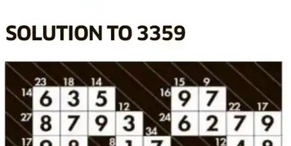
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MUHPT

NATIG

SEGDIT

OLEFWL


Good night over there. Do you have enough room?
I'll manage. Good night.
WHEN THEIR KIDS AND PETS CRAWLED INTO BED WITH THEM, THEY WERE ABLE TO ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ( ) ( ) (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TRAWL SAVOR NOODLE SPIRAL
Answer: The retired quarterback had kept that game ball for 40 years until deciding to — PASS IT DOWN

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HITORI-3360

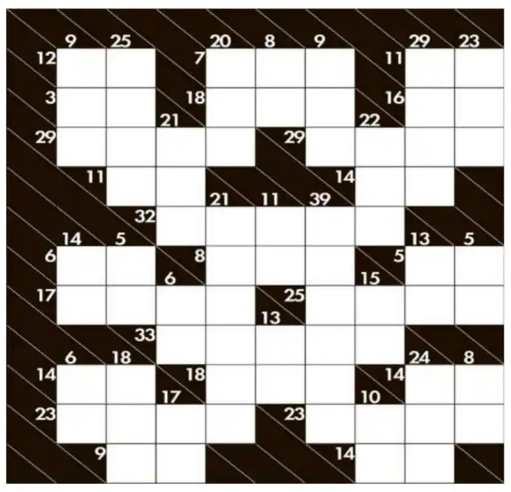
4	6	3	6	7	3	2	3
3	7	4	5	8	4	1	2
3	6	5	1	6	3	2	8
6	2	8	4	3	6	8	1
2	3	4	4	1	6	3	7
6	3	8	7	6	1	3	4
1	1	7	8	2	4	4	3
8	1	2	8	4	5	3	6

SOLUTION TO 3359

■	5	■	8	4	■	3	1
8	6	5	7	3	2	4	■
7	■	2	■	6	■	1	8
1	8	■	6	■	4	■	7
2	■	3	1	7	8	5	6
■	1	7	4	■	5	■	3
4	3	■	5	1	■	2	■
■	4	6	■	5	3	7	2

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

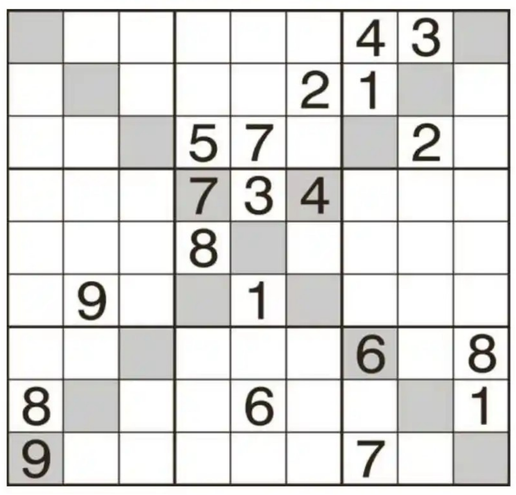
KAKURO- 3360



SOLUTION TO 3359

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3916



SOLUTION TO 3915

8	7	3	4	1	5	9	2	6
6	5	9	7	2	3	4	1	8
2	1	4	9	6	8	5	3	7
5	6	1	2	4	9	7	8	3
9	4	8	3	7	6	2	5	1
3	2	7	8	5	1	6	9	4
1	9	2	6	8	7	3	4	5
7	3	5	1	9	4	8	6	2
4	8	6	5	3	2	1	7	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Biz Bytes

FDH Aero opens office in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: FDH Aero, a global provider of supply-chain solutions for the aerospace and defence industry, has opened its new office in Bengaluru, marking a key step in its India expansion.

FDH's Hardware and Electronics divisions will be united under one roof at the Bengaluru office, which will serve as a total-solution hub for customers in the region.

The company will support Tier-1 customers and manufacturers while enabling local sourcing strategies that improve cost, availability, and supply chain performance, he said in a statement.

Karnataka explores pact with Chile

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka IT Minister Priyank Kharge on Thursday held discussions with Francisco Pérez Mackenna, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, and explored deep tech and innovation partnerships in emerging technologies, clean energy, and startup ecosystems.

The Government of Karnataka and the Government of Chile had signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) during the Bengaluru Tech Summit last year, which established a framework for collaboration across startups, emerging technologies, research, and skill development under the Global Innovation Alliance (GIA).

Bagmane Prime Office REIT lists at 4% premium

BENGALURU, DHNS/ PTI: Bagmane Prime Office REIT on Thursday ended with a premium of nearly 4% against the issue price of Rs 100. The unit started trading at Rs 103.40, up 3.4% from the issue price on BSE. During the day, it climbed 4.48% to Rs 104.48. The entity's unit finally ended at Rs 103.66, rising 3.66%. The Rs 3,405-crore IPO of Bagmane Prime Office REIT received 23.71 times subscription on the closing day of bidding on May 7 amid strong investor participation.

Speaking at the bell-ringing ceremony at the head office of Bagmane, DyCM DK Shivakumar praised its achievement. "It is a matter of pride not just for Bengaluru and Karnataka, but for the entire nation. This is a truly remarkable event, and today marks a new milestone in Bagmane's 30-year journey. This event is not merely a financial one – it is a testament to the trust that has been earned," he said. Bagmane has 200 million sq ft of Grade A office space – the largest in India and third largest in the world, he said.

India bans sugar exports till September to curb price rise

Fear of low output due to El Nino conditions, inflation guide move

SWEET PRECAUTION?
Ban applies to raw sugar, white sugar and refined sugar
Ban doesn't apply on exports to the EU under the CXL quota and the US under TRQ arrangement
ISMA claims India has adequate stocks of sugar

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India has put a ban on sugar exports with immediate effect until September 30 to ensure sufficient domestic supply and prevent any sudden spike in prices amid hardening inflationary pressures.

As per a notification dated May 13 issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), the ban applies to raw sugar, white sugar and refined sugar. The DGFT has amended the export policy of sugar from "restricted" to "prohibited" category. Earlier, the exports were under a restricted category, under which a licence was required for outbound shipments. The government used to issue company-wise quotas for export of the sweetener.

Under the new order, until September 30, which is also the end of the 2025-26 sugar season, exports will be prohibited with certain exceptions.

The ban does not apply on exports to the EU under the CXL quota and the US under Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) arrangement. The DGFT's order is also not applicable to shipments under the advance authorisation scheme, government-to-government exports and consignments already in the physical export pipeline.

The DGFT clarified that if the prohibition is not extended beyond September 30, the export policy for sugar under the relevant HS codes will automatically revert to "Restricted".

The decision comes amid fear of low production due to El Nino conditions and rising inflationary pressure.

The Wholesale Price Index-based (WPI) inflation surged to a 42-month high of 8.3% in April, while the retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 3.48%, the highest level in 14 months, as per the latest official data. Food price was the key driver of the jump in retail inflation during the month.

The Indian Sugar & Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) claimed that the country has adequate stocks of sugar.

As per the industry report, nearly 6.5 lakh tons of sugar exports have already been physically completed in the current sugar season (October 2025-September 2026), while an estimated 40,000-60,000 tons are understood to be in the physical export pipeline under previously-concluded contracts as also permitted by the government.

In view of the evolving domestic supply scenario and climatic uncertainties for the upcoming season 2026-27, including concerns relating to rainfall distribution during the ongoing monsoon period, the government may have adopted a precautionary approach aimed at ensuring adequate domestic availability of sugar, Deepak Ballani, Director General, ISMA, said in a statement.

"While the industry was anticipating a calibrated review of the export situation in light of the above, the immediate nature of the present restriction may pose practical challenges in honouring certain export commitments already contracted with overseas buyers," Ballani added.

SIA says Air India making progress in its fleet renewal.

'Air India's loss at over Rs 26k crore in 2025-26 fiscal'

SIA report points to headwinds hurting Indian carrier

NEW DELHI, PTI

Air India's loss stood at more than SGD 3.56 billion (over Rs 26,700 crore) in the financial year ended March 2026, as the carrier grappled with the fallout of airspace curbs and other headwinds.

The figures were disclosed by Singapore Airlines Group in its annual financial report for 2025-26, released on Thursday.

Singapore Airlines Group's net profit dropped 57% to SGD 1.184 billion (nearly Rs 8,900 crore) in the fiscal ended March 2026, mainly due to the absence of a prior-year one-off accounting gain related to the Vistara merger, and Air India losses.

According to the financials, Air India's total comprehensive loss was SGD 3.557 billion (over Rs 26,700 crore) in the last fiscal.

In the last financial year, Air India's revenue stood at SGD 10.533 billion, or over Rs 79,150 crore.

The rupee figures are based on the current exchange rate.

These numbers are for the Air India Group, comprising Air India and Air India Express.

"The summarised comprehensive income information for AI above and the group's share of losses for FY2025/26 are based on AI's management accounts for the year ended March 31, 2026," Singapore Airlines said.

According to Singapore Airlines (SIA), Air India faces headwinds like industry-wide supply-chain constraints, airspace restrictions, constraints on operations to its key West Asia markets and elevated jet fuel prices.

Nonetheless, SIA said Air India continues to make progress in its fleet renewal and aircraft retrofit programme, initiatives to elevate the end-to-end customer experience and improve its operational performance.

While announcing curtailment of international flights on Wednesday, Air India said a combination of factors, including continued airspace restrictions over certain regions and record-high jet fuel prices for international operations, are significantly impacting the commercial viability of certain planned services.

US authorities moving to end fraud cases against Adani

BLOOMBERG: US authorities are moving to resolve the fraud charges against billionaire Gautam Adani, according to sources, and end a criminal case that's hung over him for over a year.

Gautam Adani

The Justice Department may announce that they're dropping the charges as soon as this week, said the sources. The SEC is also moving to settle a parallel civil fraud case it brought against Adani and others in November 2024, some sources said.

Ending the cases would be a significant boon to the Adani Group. It also clears the decks for the conglomerate to return to international capital markets and resume its aggressive expansion strategy.

While the Justice Department could effectively move to drop charges with the defendants out of the country, a resolution to the SEC may involve a monetary penalty, sources said.

In November 2024, the US Attorney's Office in Brooklyn alleged in a five-count indictment that Adani and other defendants helped drive a $250-million bribery scheme in India to lock in solar-power contracts. The Adani Group has consistently denied the charges. None of the defendants, including Adani and his nephew Sagar, have appeared in court so far over the charges.

WPI jumps to 42-month high of 8.3% in April

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The annual wholesale price inflation surged to 8.3% in April, the highest in 42 months, driven by a sharp jump in fuel price due to West Asia-related disruptions, as per official data on Thursday.

The Wholesale Price Index-based (WPI) inflation stood at 3.88% in March. In April 2025, it was recorded at 0.85%. The fuel and power segment was the biggest driver of inflation pressure in the wholesale market in April. The wholesale fuel and power inflation surged to 24.71% in April, from 1.05% recorded in the previous month.

"The positive rate of inflation in April 2026 is primarily due to increase in prices of mineral oils, crude petroleum & natural gas, basic metals, other manufacturing and non-food articles etc," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said.

The price of crude petroleum & natural gas (16.42%), food articles (1.41%) and minerals (0.91%) increased in April 2026, compared to March 2026. The price of non-food articles (-0.94%) decreased in April 2026, compared to March 2026. "The impact of high global crude prices was evident in the primary articles category, as well as manufactured products. The former was driven by crude petroleum and natural gas, oil seeds and minerals," said Megha Arora, Director, Ind-Ra.

Crude petroleum price in particular increased by 88.06% in April 2026. In the manufacturing group, while several sub-groups witnessed inflation, food products, basic metals, chemicals, and textiles exerted upward pressure. High global metal prices, potential El Nino effect and overall higher cost of imported inputs is likely to keep inflation in this segment high in the coming months.

India caps gold imports under Advance Authorisation scheme at 100 kg

NEW DELHI, PTI

A day after significantly increasing the import duty on precious metals, the government on Thursday imposed a limit of 100 kg on gold imports under the Advance Authorisation (AA) scheme, which allows jewellery exporters to import raw or input materials at zero duty.

The government has tighetend conditons for the issuance and monitoring of advance authorisation for import of gold. Earlier, there was no limit on gold imports under the scheme.

The Advance Authorisation scheme allows the duty-free import of inputs that are incorporated into an export product. In addition to any inputs, packaging material, fuel, oil, and catalyst that are consumed or utilised in the process of production of export product, are also allowed.

"AA for import of gold shall be issued, subject to a maximum remissible quantity of 100 kg," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a public notice.

It added that in case of application for AA by a first-time applicant, a mandatory physical inspection of the applicant's manufacturing facility will be undertaken to verify the existence, capacity and operational status of the unit.

"Any subsequent AA for the import of gold, shall be considered for issuance only upon fulfilment of at least 50% of the export obligation...," it said, adding that the AA holder will have to submit a fortnightly performance report, which should be duly certified by an independent chartered accountant certifying gold imports and exports undertaken.

Further, the concerned regional authority of the directorate will submit a monthly report to the DGFT containing details regarding the issuance of AA.

The government on Wednesday sharply hiked the import duty on gold and silver to 15% to discourage purchase and trim non-essential imports in the backdrop of a ballooning import bill amid the West Asia crisis.

ELECTRIFYING EXPANSION

Tesla opens experience centre in Bengaluru

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE
BENGALURU, DHNS

Tesla on Thursday opened its first experience centre in Bengaluru's Whitefield, marking a major expansion of the Elon Musk-led electric vehicle maker's presence in India.

The new facility, located in the city's prominent IT corridor, will allow customers to experience both the Tesla Model Y and the newly-launched Model Y L, with the latter priced from Rs 61.99 lakh. Tesla said the launch reflects its broader push to cater to the growing demand for electric mobility in India.

Alongside the experience centre, the company also announced the start of after-sales service operations in Whitefield to strengthen customer support and ownership experience in Bengaluru.

The Model Y L is positioned as a premium family-focused electric SUV featuring a three-row, six-seat layout. According to Tesla, the vehicle offers a WLTP-certified range of up to 681 km and can accelerate from 0-100 kmph in 5.0 seconds. The SUV also provides up to 2,539 litres of cargo capacity, while the redesigned cabin is aimed at maximising passenger headroom, legroom and overall comfort.

The new Tesla Model Y L that was unveiled in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Tesla highlighted the safety credentials of both the Model Y and Model Y L, noting that the vehicles have received top safety ratings from several global testing agencies.

The company also emphasised its fast-charging capabilities, stating that Tesla Supercharging can add up to 288 km of range to the Model Y L in just 15 minutes. Home-charging support will also be available in India to enhance convenience for EV owners and support long-distance travel.

"The seamless 'Plug In, Charge and Go' experience enables convenient and stress-free long-distance travel, making electric mobility practical for everyday use," the company said in a statement.

Tesla India Country Head Sharad Agarwal said the company currently operates experience centres in Mumbai, Gurugram and Delhi, apart from the newly-opened Bengaluru outlet. Tesla also runs service and body shop facilities across Mumbai, Gurugram, Pune and Delhi, with plans to expand its network further in the country.

REVENUE COMMISSIONERATE, REVENUE DEPARTMENT
BHOOMI MONITORING CELL
1st floor SSLR Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
E-mail: bhoomi.bmc01@gmail.com Phone: 080-22113255

No: BMC/2026-27/IND0032 Date: 14/05/2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for procurement of **ENTERPRISE RACK SERVERS** to Bhoomi Monitoring Cell, Revenue Department, Karnataka. The last date for uploading filled tender form through KPP Portal is **29/05/2026 by 5.29 P.M.** Details regarding terms and conditions are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

DIPR/CP/SMCL/673/2026-27
Sd/- Assistant Commissioner (Incharge), Bhoomi Monitoring Cell, Revenue Department

KARNATAKA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
Tumkur Division, Karnataka, Telephone : 0816 2272479.
No.EE/KPWD/Tmk/JE-3/T.No.12/2026-27/ Dt. 12-05-2026
Invitation For Short Term Tender (IFT) KW-4 E-TENDER NOTIFICATION.

On behalf of Government of Karnataka tenders are invited in **Two** cover system for Class-3 & above Contractors registered in PWD for 01 work under 5054 KRDCL Bridge Head of account in the jurisidiction of Tumkur Division through KPPP-Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). The dates are published as below.

(Amount Put to Tender **Rs.117.34 Lakhs** EMD Amount **Rs. 2,00,000/-**)

1	Last date for tender information enquiries	**18-05-2026: 17-00**
2	Last date for submission of tender.	**19-05-2026 : 16-00**
3	Date of opening the Technical bid.	**20-05-2026: 16-30**
4	Date of opening the Financial bid.	**21-05-2026 : 17-00**

Note: Turnover Certificate without UDI Number will not be considered, Hereafter any changes with reference to this Notification will be Notified in E-Portal Only

DIPR/TUM/RO-31/26-27/Oysters
Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.W.D Division, Tumkur

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department Division, Haveri
This office letter No.033/PB/Tnd/5054-3054-4059/2026-27/571/ Dated : 12-05-2026

E-Tender Notification

On 12-05-2026 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal tender notification has been issued for the following Work Indent No. 34923 & 35366 Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : **22-06-2026** (upto 4:00 PM) and Work Indent No. 33686/Call-2, 34538/Call-2, 34804/Call-2, 34805/Call-2, 34815/Call-2 & 34083 Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated: **21-05-2026** (upto 4:00 PM). For further additional information, any changes & queries visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- (N.N.Patil)
Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Haveri
DIPR/Haveri/KSMCA/92/2026-27

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No:CEE/Tr(Op)TZ/SEE(O)/AE-2/26-27/1391-93, 1394-96 & 1397-99 Dt: 12.05.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites tender for Augmentation of Power Transformer in Transmission (Operations) Zone, Tumakuru for the following works:

(1) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/CEE/Tr(o)Z/SEE(O)/AE-2/2025-26/94 dt: 21.01.2026(Call-3) for Replacement of **2x12.5 MVA**, 66/11kV Power Transformers-1 & 2 by **2x20MVA** 66/11kV Power Transformer at 66/11KV sub-station **Madhugiri,** Madhugiri Taluk, Madhugiri Operation Division.

(2) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/CEE/Tr(o)Z/SEE(O)/AE-2/2025-26/103 dt: 11.02.2026(Call-2) for Augmentation of 2x12.5MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers-1 & 2 by 2x20MVA 66/11kV Power Transformers at **66/11KV Shylapura** sub-station in Pavagada Taluk, Madhugiri Operation Division.

(3) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/CEE/Tr(o)Z/SEE(O)/AE-2/2025-26/104 dt:18.02.2026 for Replacement of **2X12.5MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers-1&2 by 2X20MVA Power Transformers at 66/11kV sub-station Kodigenahalli** in Madhugiri Operation Division.

For all the above works including supply of equipments/ materials, Dismantling and erection (including civil works), under Partial Turnkey basis, on Percentage Tender Basis. (Excluding the supply of Major materials such as Power Transformer & NIFES, which will be supplied by KPTCL. Testing & commissioning, done by KPTCL RT Staff)The detailed information regarding subject enquiry in KPP portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 16.05.2026** and other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy.), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, "Prasarana Bhavana, 1st Floor, Tumakuru 66/11kV S/s Premises, Tumakuru.

D. DEVARAJ URS TRUCK TERMINALS LIMITED
(A Karnataka Government Undertaking)
3rd Floor, TTMC 'B' Block, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560027.
Phone No: 080-22223753/58

No: DDUTTL/TT/2026-27/36 Date: 14-05-2026

PAY & PARK E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement Mode Only)

D. Devaraj Urs Truck Terminals Ltd., (DDUTTL), Bengaluru - 560027. DDUTTL has invited Auction for Grant of License for Collection of Parking Fee for specified period from interested Agencies / Persons / Companies / Departments through E-Platform at **3rd Call of 1) Four Locations inside the Truck Terminal for the period of Two continuous years with a moratorium period of Two months is located at Bandipalya - Nachanahalli Village, Mysore - Nanjangud Ring Road Junction, Mysore - 570025. 2) Idle CC Parking Area of 6th Call of for the period of One / Two / Five year with a moratorium period of Four Months and on "as is where is basis on the day of handing over possession of site" located at Amaravathi Village, Hospet Taluk, Vijayanagara District.**

1) Interested bidders can access documents from Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

2) Corrigendum / Addendum / Modifications / Corrections, if any will be published in Website e-Procurement Portal only.

Rules followed:

- **As per the Resolution of the 212th Board of Directors meeting, it has been decided to revise the bid amount for Hospet and Mysore Truck Terminals and reduce it by 50% and 25% respectively.**

Interested bidders shall be participate electronically through New e-Procurement Portal on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** of the Government of Karnataka. Last Date of Expression of Interest is on **26-05-2026 upto 5.00 PM.** Further details & information can be obtained from the **Managing Director's Office, DDUTTL** during office hours.

Sd/-
Managing Director
DDUTTL

DIPR/CP/658/Adverto/2026-27

IN BRIEF

Priya takes three-shot lead

Karnataka youngster Priya Kumari shot a bogey-free, two-under 70 on Thursday to vault to the top of the leaderboard on the second day of the IGU Pune Ladies & Junior Girls Golf Championship at the Oxford Golf Resort, reports DHNS.

Leading scores (after 36 holes): Combined Ladies, Category A & B: 142: Priya Kumari (Kar, 72, 70); **145:** Yogya Bhalla (Del, 72, 73); **146:** Apeksha David (Mani, 70, 76).

Category C (11-12 years): 155: Ridhima Kapoor (Kar, 79, 76); **163:** Nandini Rathee (Har, 86, 77); **164:** Amaira Gulati (Del, 84, 80), Aashna Amogha (Kar, 85, 79).

India squad for Unity Cup

India senior men's team head coach Khalid Jamil on Thursday announced the 28-member preliminary squad, which has four goal keepers and eight forwards, for the Unity Cup to be held in London from May 26 to 30, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Squad: Goalkeepers: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Vishal Kaith, Hrithik Tiwari, Albino Gomes.

Defenders: Rahul Bheke, Nikhil Poojary, Roshan Singh Naorem, Abhishek Singh Tekcham, Anwar Ali, Sandesh Jhingan, Akash Mishra, Bijoy Varghese, Pramveer.

Midfielders: Ashique Kuruniyan, Lalengmawia Ralte, Sahal Abdul Samad, Anirudh Thapa, Jeakson Singh Thounaojam, Noufal PN, Ricky Shabong.

Forwards: Ryan Williams, Manvir Singh, Liston Colaco, Suhail Ahmad Bhat, Edmund Lalrindika, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Rahim Ali, Farukh Choudhary.

Rivaan notches a fine double

Chennai's Rivaan Dev Preetham (MSPORT) pulled off a double by winning both the point scoring Super Heat and Final races in the OK-Junior class of the Indian Karting Academy Trophy karting competition at the Meco Kartopia circuit on Sunday, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

Nikhat blasts SAI, BFI after losing CWG, Asiad trials

PATIALA, PTI: Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen on Thursday said the last two weeks have been a "torture" for the boxers, who were "crushed" in the administrative tussle between the Boxing Federation of India and the Sports Authority of India.

SAI had objected to the BFI's assessment-based selection model after receiving complaints from several boxers and eventually suspended midway the assessment camp for selecting squads for this year's Commonwealth Games and Asian Games.

The move forced the federation to revert to the traditional trial-based system.

"The last two weeks was like torture for us boxers. I don't want to blame any one person or body. But the athletes got crushed between the issue between those two (SAI and BFI)," Nikhat said. The national camp, which was originally to begin on April 25, was subjected to delays and postponements, which proved especially taxing for boxers such as Nikhat, who had to maintain weight for assessment.

"We were told the camp will start from 25th April but then the (SAI) sanction didn't come. Then they said once the camp starts on April 29 the assessment system will also start.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: LSG vs CSK **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHostar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Aston Villa vs Liverpool **(12:30 am, Saturday)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

ISL: Mohammedan SC vs Mumbai City FC **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, FanCode.**

TENNIS

Rome Masters: Semifinals **(4:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

City keep the pressure on Arsenal

Guardiola's second-string side dispatches Palace 3-0

MANCHESTER, AFP

Manchester City's second string eased past Crystal Palace 3-0 on Wednesday to climb just two points behind Premier League leaders Arsenal with two games remaining of a captivating title race.

Pep Guardiola made six changes from the side that beat Brentford 3-0 at the weekend, with Erling Haaland and Jeremy Doku among those on the bench, while Palace boss Oliver Glasner also made tweaks.

First-half goals from Antoine Semenyo and Omar Marmoush put City in control at a damp Etihad and a late strike from Savinho added gloss to the scoreline.

The tide appeared to have turned in City's favour in the title race over recent weeks but last week's costly 3-3 draw at Everton put Arsenal firmly back in the box seat.

The City players experienced the agony of seeing a stoppage-time equaliser for West Ham against Arsenal ruled out following a VAR check on Sunday as the Gunners battled to a 1-0 win.

City opened the scoring in style in the 32nd minute after Phil Foden produced an exquisite back pass to set up Semenyo, who finished coolly past Dean Henderson into the far corner of the goal.

They doubled their lead eight minutes later, with Foden again the provider, touching the ball to Marmoush, who celebrated his third Premier League goal of the season.

The three-goal win takes City to 77 points, two behind Arsenal. City now have a superior goal difference of plus one and have scored seven more goals.

Barca lose

Newly-crowned Spanish champions Barcelona suffered a 1-0 defeat by Alaves on Wednesday, ending their bid to match the all-time La Liga record points total of 100.

Hansi Flick's side needed to win their remaining three matches to reach that figure but fell at the first hurdle in Vitoria. Ibrahim Diabate's goal in first half stoppage time earned Alaves a vital victory in their battle against relegation, taking Quique Sanchez Flores's team out of the drop zone and up to 15th.

Earlier, Sevilla produced a sensational comeback from two goals down to beat Villarreal 3-2 and climb towards safety.

Espanyol defeated Athletic Bilbao 2-0 at home to win their first match in 2026, ending an 18-game run without a victory.

Inter double

Inter Milan won the Italian Cup on Wednesday after beating Lazio 2-0 and completing a domestic double alongside their 21st Serie A title.

An Adam Marusic own goal and Lautaro Martinez's tap-in, both in the first half, gave Inter both a comfortable victory in Rome and a 10th Cup triumph.

Manchester City's Omar Marmoush celebrates after scoring against Crystal Palace during their Premier League clash on Wednesday night. REUTERS

High fives in Paris as PSG reign supreme

LENS (FRANCE), AFP

Paris Saint-Germain secured their fifth straight French Ligue 1 title on Wednesday as Khvicha Kvaratskhelia's **(in pic)** strike set up a decisive 2-0 win away to nearest rivals Lens.

The Georgian netted his 19th goal of the season just before the half-hour mark and substitute Ibrahim Mbaye added a late second as PSG took an unassailable nine-point lead at the top with one match of the season remaining.

Luis Enrique's team had all but clinched another league triumph last weekend when they beat Brest 1-0 to go six points clear of Lens with two games left while also boasting a far superior goal difference.

That meant even a Lens victory here could not realistically have prevented the Parisians from extending their domestic dominance.

PSG have now won a record 14 French titles overall with 12 of them coming in the last 14 years, a period in which they have been transformed under Qatari ownership.

Five in a row is the longest streak of successive Ligue 1 titles since Lyon claimed seven on the bounce between 2002 and 2008.

This latest league title adds to their trophy haul for the season, in which they had already won the UEFA Super Cup, FIFA Intercontinental Cup and French Champions Trophy.

There might yet be more to come, as the defending European champions face Arsenal in the Champions League final in Budapest on May 30 -- they will become just the second team in the modern era to win back-to-back European Cups if they defeat the Gunners.

"We wanted to come here and win, but we especially want to prepare for the final on May 30," last year's Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele told broadcaster beIN Sports.

"We have one more game to come on Sunday (against Paris FC). We will celebrate this because it's official now, we are champions."

Lens, meanwhile, are now guaranteed to finish second, securing a spot in the league phase of next season's Champions League.

Jayaram five-for routs Bangalore Occasionals

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chnadrasekharan Jayaram bagged a five-wicket haul as Freelancers Cricket Club beat Bangalore Occasionals by 153 runs in the KSCA under-16 Inter-club tournament here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Having called it right at the toss and opting to bat first, Freelancers Cricket Club were shot out for a paltry 223 all out in 46 overs. Bangalore Occasionals' Sajal Bansal starred with 4/39.

Chasing 224 for victory, the Bangalore Occasionals batting unit imploded as Jayaram (5/32) headlined a brilliant bowling show, bowling them out for just 70 in 19.3 overs.

Brief scores: Freelancers Cricket Club: 223 all out in 46 overs (Pratinav Paul 25, KN Nipun Devaiah 38, Akhilesh Yadav M 81; Pruthu Avinash Aathreya 2-47, Tejas Mukund 2-30, Sajal Bansal 4-39) bt Bangalore Occasionals: 70 all out in 19.3 overs (Rishab Hiremath 2/31, Chnadrasekharan Jayaram 5-32, Saiprithish Ganesan 2-5).

Palar Sports Club, Kolar: 114 all out in 22 overs (Chayaank Pradeep 25, Vishal Reddy SV 34; Vinjamuri Rushyanth 2-27, Arya Ayyappan 5-40, Lakshmi Sai Nihal 2-7) lt to Social Cricketers: 118/5 in 22 overs (Athreya Bhat 29, Hridaan Sai 26; Vishal Reddy SV 3-27).

Neptune Cricket Club: 123 all out in 34.3 overs (Srijesh Parthiban 83; Atharv Karadi 4-20, Prakash S Kyadigumpi 3-23, Viswajeet Prashant Jadhav 3-27) lt to RVCE Gymkhana: 124/1 in 17.4 overs (P Lithik Reddy 52 n.o., Avaneesha SN 58 n.o.).

Sachin, Bhati hundreds in Magadi CC's victory

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sachin AM and Mann Bhati recorded quick-fire hundreds as Magadi Cricket Club, Magadi trounced MES College by 228 runs in the KSCA Y S Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy tournament for the IV and V Division clubs here.

Magadi, riding on contributions from Sachin (140 off 70) and Bhati (115 off 76), posted a mammoth 451 all out in 46.3 overs.

In reply, chasing a mountain of runs, MES College found the going tough and were bowled out for 223 in 46.2 overs. Sarafraj M Ilabad picked up 3/16 while Bhati bagged two after his solid ton.

Brief scores: Magadi Cricket Club, Magadi: 451 all out in 46.3 overs (Yashmith K Gowda 53, Sachin AM 140, Mann Bhati 115, Sashvith Somanna MR 64; Muralidhara Rao A 4-65, Nithin C 3-92) bt MES College: 223 all out in 46.2 overs (Rakesh KS 35, Vishwas Balaji V 42, Mohith S 33, Jinesh Chhajer 26 n.o.; Mann Bhati 2-44, Supreeth R 2-24, Sarafraj M Ilabad 3-16).

Jeevanbhimanagar Cricket Club: 244 all out in 49.2 overs (Lokadetya Tilak 26, Aarav Bajaj 92, Pranam Seetharama Achar 27, Preetham P 58; Gv Umasankar 2-51, Keshav S Raghavan 2-44, Manjunath Jayarama 3-53) lt to Zodiac Cricket Club: 247/4 in 27.4 overs (Bhaskar 29, Pavan Yadav M 67, Gnane 65 n.o., Abhay Alekal 39, Shoheb Pasha 29 n.o.; Mohammed Zaid Khan S 2-50).

Crescent Cricket Club (1): 196 all out in 40.1 overs (Sagar AM 34, Lakshith 39, Preetham V Khamkar 33; Chandrashekarmurthy KS 2-47, Syed Asif Pasha 2-25, Somashekara Murthy KS 2-32) bt Silky Town Cricket Club, Channapatna: 193 all out in 46.1 overs (Mohammed Kashif A 75, Bhuvan L 27; Prem Sagar P 3-28, Vasanth Kumar 2-20, Shahid Ali 3-39).

Guite 'tricks to power Real Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Nehgoumng Guite scored a hattrick as FC Real Bengaluru blanked Freelancers FC 6-0 in a Group D match of the KSFA C Division League Championships at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Thursday.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Results: South Zone: Group C: Play Smart FC: 4 (Shamil 28th, 33rd, Siddharth 37th, 43rd) bt United Ace: 0; FX FC Bangalore: 3 (Kaviarsu 12th, G Sri Kishore 28th, Vismay 60+2) bt Technico FF: 2 (Yash Pishe 5th, Sabstian Lalminlum 30th); BM FC: 3 (Gopi 26th, 53rd, Anto 55th) bt Vanquisher Sports: 2 (Aarav Choudhary 3rd, Lalhim Puia 48th).

Group D: FC Real Bengaluru: 6 (Miibodo Yirang 3rd, Vishal Saika 17th, Lakshytosh Joshi 21st, Nehgoumng Guite 28th, 30th, 54th) bt Freelancers FC: 0; Bangalore Champs Academy: 6 (Logu Subramani 12th, Abinesh 17th, Mathu 36th, 38th, Amal 47th, Mohammed Aathif 57th) bt North East Youth FC: 0; Noel Wilson FC w/o TAL FC.

Local boy Tyagi fights his way into semifinals

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Great Britain's Hamish Stewart is ranked 328 in the world. Whereas, India's Kriish Tyagi is the 1322-ranked player. The former is 6 feet 4 inches tall while the latter stands at 6 feet 1 inch in height. Here at the Karnataka Open ATP 50 Challenger, Stewart entered the draw as the second seed and Tyagi was handed a wild card.

Clearly, all the numbers tilted towards the 26-year-old Stewart, making him the absolute favourite against the 19-year-old Tyagi in the run-up to their quarterfinal encounter at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium on Thursday.

But what a few home supporters around Court 1 witnessed was Tyagi's heart and fight subduing Stewart's superior rank, height and experience.

In a physical slugfest that lasted two hours and 41 minutes under lights, the Bengaluru boy's smart play gave him a 7-6 (7), 5-7, 6-4 victory over the temperamental Brit, allowing Tyagi to move into the semifinals.

"I'm blank right now," said the teenager sporting a big smile that shone brighter than the colourful outfit and the double-layered silver chains dangling around his neck.

Top seed Keegan Smith of USA beat fifth seed Ognjen Milic of Serbia to move into the semifinal of the Karnataka Open ATP 50 Challenger at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium on Thursday. KSLTA MEDIA

"One good serve is all I was telling myself on match point. I knew if I made a good first serve he would miss the return. That had happened in the two previous points, so I managed to get in a good first serve, won the point and the match."

Countering Stewart's big serves with good returns, keeping the ball flat and low and staying patient during long rallies helped Tyagi ensure the momentum stayed slightly on his side throughout the match. That minute advantage Tyagi enjoyed troubled and distracted Stewart.

In the end, Tyagi's well-planned ploy saw Stewart make 71 unforced errors - an unwanted number in the Brit's favour that sent him packing.

Earlier, the experience and power of Belarus' Ilya Ivashka on the other side of the court proved too much for Manish Sureshkumar, the only other Indian in the fray. Ivashka, a former top-40 player, scored a 6-3, 6-3 win over the Chennai man.

Results: Singles (quarterfinal, prefix denotes seedings): Ilya Ivashka bt Manish Sureshkumar (Ind) 6-3, 6-3; 1-Keegan Smith (USA) bt 5-Ognjen Milic (Srb) 7-6 (5), 6-3; 4-Philip Sekulic (Aus) bt 7-Maximus Jones (Tha) 6-7 (6), 6-3, 6-1; WC-Kriish Tyagi (Ind) bt 2-Hamish Stewart (GBR) 7-6 (7), 5-7, 6-4.

Soyez replaces Sreejesh as Jr men's coach

NEW DELHI, PTI: Hockey India on Thursday officially appointed decorated Frenchman Frederic Soyez as the chief coach of the national junior men's hockey team, replacing two-time Olympic medallist PR Sreejesh.

Sreejesh, a former star goalkeeper, was removed from his role just after 17 months following the expiry of his contract after guiding India to a bronze medal finish at last year's FIH Junior World Cup in Chennai and Madurai.

Frederic Soyez

One of the most accomplished coaches in European hockey, Soyez brings over three decades of elite coaching experience, including 15 years as an international player for France and over 15 years as a head coach at the highest level.

Soyez, who enjoyed an illustrious playing career with France from 1995 to 2010, earning 196 international caps and scoring an impressive 195 goals for the team, coached the national men's hockey teams of both France and Spain.

I-League 3 rules 'confusion' costs Agniputhra dearly

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

FC Agniputhra were left all surprised on Thursday when they learnt of their exclusion from the final phase of the I-League 3 despite finishing inside the qualification zone during the group stages.

Adding to their agony, their request for a rematch of their group-topper deciding match against Royal Rangers FC (lost 0-2) following a red-card incident, as reported by *DH* on May 6, was also rejected by the league's disciplinary committee.

The six-team play-off stages, which start in Manipur's Imphal from Saturday, allotted spots to all four group toppers, besides the top two group runners-up based on points.

Upon conclusion of the group stages, Agniputhra, who hosted Group D, were among the best group runners-up with seven points, along with FC Raengdai from Group A. However, the Bengaluru-based club found its name missing from the fixture for the final phase.

When *DH* contacted All India Football Federation deputy secretary M Satyanarayan for clarity on the matter, he revealed that Agniputhra didn't make the cut under the league's rules.

With Kuppuraj FC pulling out of Group C, the remaining four teams played just three matches, while the rest of the teams in other groups played four. To ensure the best second-placed teams under such circumstances, the rules read, "the result in the match between the second-placed Participating Club and the bottom-placed Participating Club in their respective group shall be considered null and void."

Subequently, the rule dropped Agniputhra to third place while Chhaygaon FC from Group B qualified instead. However, FCA remained unconvinced as a club official alleged that there was no oral or written communication from the organisers before the start of the group stages.

Meanwhile, inaction on a request for a rematch on the red-card incident further made the club feel hard done.

The disciplinary committee stood by the official reports while the video evidence submitted by the club was ignored.

US plunge toughens Bengaluru boy Tyagi's play, personality

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Comfort becomes a long lost friend. Familiarity feels like a distant relative. Everything and everyone close to the heart is no longer a stone's throw away. Well aware of the absence of all such luxuries he was signing up for, promising player Kriish Tyagi took the plunge to study and play collegiate tennis at Texas A&M University in the USA.

The benefits of living on his own for the first time as a teen, for over a year now, is already beginning to show positive signs, feels the 19-year-old Bengaluru boy who has been India's Junior no. 1, won the under-14, U-16, U-18 National Championship titles and reached as high as 33 in the Junior ITF world ranking.

"Honestly, before I went to college, I was expecting it to be tough because I'm going to be alone," says Tyagi. "Here, my family was always there to do everything. There, I do everything from taking care of my food, classes, physio, training... by myself. That has definitely made me more responsible."

Tyagi's era of 'taking ownership of my own life' has not only raised the quality of his game but also helped develop a mature approach to handling challenges on court. Both of which were evident at the ongoing Karnataka Open – the first of the two back-to-back ATP Challenger events at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium here. The world No. 1322 wild card entrant Tyagi, playing his first Tour-level tournament of the season, defeated higher-ranked Japanese -- Taiyo Yamanaka (WR 857) and Yuta Kawahashi (WR 637) -- in the opening two rounds. His big kill came on Thursday when the local lad ousted world No. 328 Hamish Stewart of Great Britain.

Bengaluru's Kriish Tyagi, playing his first Tour-level tournament of the season, has impressed as the wild card entrant and made it to the semifinal of the ongoing Karnataka Open ATP 50 Challenger. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

"I'm mentally stronger now. I know no one's going to help me there. And I mean, that correlates on the court.

"Comparatively, there are more players in the US who have the same goals as you to become a good professional. Watching them being disciplined and trying to match their intensity along with managing my studies has helped me a lot," offers Tyagi, who is doing his majors in business and finance.

The urge to learn and gain as much knowledge perhaps comes from the fact that Tyagi picked up a tennis racquet as a 10-year-old. According to experts, that is a touch late as kids generally begin playing between the ages of 5-7.

"I never got him enrolled for tennis," begins mother Sapna. "He was actually a swimmer. But he always liked watching kids play tennis. So Shyam (Mohan) sir who spotted Kriish, requested us to make the switch before helping us begin the tennis journey," reminisces Sapna.

Now, a regular trainee at the Harsha Lingappa Tennis Academy here, Tyagi is focussed on improving both as a player and person while being a student-athlete in the USA. All the skills and substance he is learning, hopefully, will help him better prepare for the demanding men's professional tour in the future.

"While everyone was talking about this being the season of 'Gen Next', Kohli showed he is still around. He silenced the doubters with a century.

SUNIL GAVAKASKAR
COMMENTATOR

I was nervous after successive ducks: Kohli

RAIPUR, PTI: Indian batting superstar Virat Kohli says he is not immune to the anxiety that comes with performance pressure, admitting that consecutive ducks in the last couple of IPL matches had left him a bit nervous.

The 37-year-old roared back to form on Wednesday night with an unbeaten 105 off 60 balls as his team Royal Challengers Bengaluru defeated Kolkata Knight Riders by six wickets to climb to the top of the IPL table.

It was a record-extending ninth IPL hundred for Kohli as he went past Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Rohit Sharma to become the player with most appearances (279) in the tournament. It was also his first IPL century since the 2024 season.

"The fact that I didn't get many runs in the last two games was, it eats me up in a way that I know I can play well and I'm hitting the ball well," Kohli told the broadcaster after he was adjudged the Player of the Match.

"But then, when you don't carry on and you know (that) you haven't created the impact for the team, it bothers you because that's basically been the goal all these years... trying to improve so that you can be the best version for your team when you play out there and make an impact," he added.

Kohli admitted that he was a bit uneasy after being dismissed for ducks in the previous two outings, but also asserted that failures like these also play a role in a player's growth.

"The celebration (after completing the century) was not a big one because we know the importance of the points. It is a conscious effort to contribute," Kohli said.

MI hurt PBKS' playoff hopes

Visitors ride Tilak's fifty, Shardul's 4-for to hand Punjab their fifth straight loss

DHARAMSALA, PTI

Punjab Kings slumped to their fifth straight defeat, seriously hurting their playoff hopes, as Mumbai Indians cruised to a six-wicket win in a crucial IPL clash on Thursday riding on Shardul Thakur's four-wicket haul and a clinical batting effort from Tilak Varma, who smashed 75.

Asked to bat first, Prabhsimran Singh (57) added a 33-ball 50-run opening stand with Priyansh Arya (27) to take PBKS to 55 for 1 in the powerplay and then added 57 runs with Cooper Connolly to go past the 100-run mark in the 12th over.

Shardul (4/39) brought MI back into the game with a four-wicket burst but PBKS managed to pile up 53 runs in the last three overs to post a competitive 200 for 8.

Chasing the target, Ryan Rickelton came out blazing as he single-handedly propelled Mumbai Indians to 59 for no loss despite Rohit Sharma's scratchy 25 at the other end.

PBKS fought back with three wickets for 57 runs between the seventh and 13th overs, but Tilak Varma anchored the chase superbly with an unbeaten 33-ball 75. He first stitched a 61-run stand off 42 balls with Sherfane Rutherford (20) and then combined with Will Jacks to steer MI home in 19.5 overs.

The defeat severely dented Punjab Kings' playoff hopes as they now need to win both their remaining matches to stay in contention for a top-four finish.

Defending 200, Arshdeep Singh delivered two outstanding overs with the new ball, conceding just eight runs, but lacked support from the other end as Rickelton tore into the attack with four boundaries and four sixes during his explosive 23-ball 48.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer rotated his seamers in the powerplay, but Rickelton launched the assault with a six off Azmatullah Omarzai before hammering Marco Jansen and Xavier Bartlett.

Azmatullah eventually provided the breakthrough by dismissing Rickelton, while Jansen removed Naman Dhir (9). Yuzvendra Chahal then pulled things back briefly with a superb spell, first strangling Rohit for runs and later castling him as MI slipped to 89 for 3.

Tilak and Rutherford rebuilt the innings calmly before shifting gears, targeting Azmatullah for a 13-run over to ease the pressure. Arshdeep nearly provided another breakthrough when Tilak miscued a skier, but Jansen failed to hold on. With 72 needed off the last five overs, PBKS turned to Chahal again, but Tilak and Rutherford counterattacked brilliantly.

Tilak Varma scored an unbeaten 33-ball 75 to help Mumbai Indians beat Punjab Kings by six wickets at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamsala on Thursday. PTI

SCORE BOARD

PUNJAB KINGS: Priyansh Arya b Chahar 22, Prabhsimran Singh c Bosch b Thakur 57, Cooper Connolly b Bawa 21, Shreyas Iyer b Thakur 4, Suryansh Shedge c Bawa b Thakur 8, Shashank Singh lbw b Bosch 2, Azmatullah Omarzai c Jacks b Chahar 38, Marco Jansen b Thakur 2, Vishnu Vinod (not out) 15, Xavier Bartlett (not out) 18. Extras (W-7, LB-1, B-5) 13. **TOTAL (for 8 wkts, 20 overs) 200.**

Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-107, 3-111, 4-111, 5-123, 6-135, 7-140, 8-166.

Bowling: Deepak Chahar 4-0-36-2, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-35-0, Shardul Thakur 4-0-39-4, Corbin Bosch 4-0-42-1, Raghu Sharma 2-0-22-0, Will Jacks 1-0-9-0, Raj Bawa 1-0-11-1.

MUMBAI INDIANS: Rohit Sharma b Chahal 25, Ryan Rickelton c Arya b Azmatullah 48, Naman Dhir c Arshdeep b Jansen 9, Tilak Varma (not out) 75, Sherfane Rutherford c Bartlett b Azmatullah 20, Will Jacks (not out) 25. Extras (W-3) 3. **TOTAL (for 4 wkts, 19.5 overs) 205.**

Fall of wickets: 1-61, 2-81, 3-88, 4-149.

Bowling: Arshdeep Singh 4-0-29-0, Azmatullah Omarzai 4-0-36-2, Marco Jansen 4-0-55-1, Xavier Bartlett 3.5-0-53-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-32-1.

Result: MI won by 6 wickets

PoM: Tilak Varma.

Super Kings eye win to stay alive

LIVE 7:30 PM

Five-time champs take on eliminated Super Giants

LUCKNOW, PTI

Still in the hunt for a playoff berth despite an erratic campaign, Chennai Super Kings will look to continue their recent resilient run when they take on the already-eliminated Lucknow Super Giants in an IPL match here on Friday.

While CSK have managed to stay afloat with timely wins in the second half of the season, LSG's campaign has unravelled due to a string of ordinary performances.

For Chennai, the equation remains straightforward -- win remaining matches and hope other results end up in their favour. CSK are currently placed fifth in the pecking order with six wins from 11 matches.

Despite frequent criticism over their lack of finishing firepower, the five-time champions have shown fight through crucial contributions from Sanju Samson **(in pic),** Urvil Patel, captain Ruturaj Gaikwad and a few other emerging players.

Young batter Urvil's fearless approach at the top has added much-needed momentum to CSK's Powerplay scoring. On Friday, Shivam Dube, Kartik Sharma and Dewald Brevis also have key roles to play in the middle overs on a surface expected to aid stroke-making.

The bowling unit, however, has received a big blow recently with all-rounder Jamie Overton ruled out of the remainder of IPL due to a thigh injury and returning to the UK for further assessment.

This significant blow affects CSK's playoff push, marking yet another injury setback this season.

CSK's bowling was largely defined by the standout performances of Overton before his injury. He was providing crucial middle-overs breakthroughs and took 14 wickets in 10 matches.

However, despite a campaign beset by injuries to important players, a disciplined, and varied attack, has helped the side register vital wins.

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Royal Challengers	12	8	4	0	16	1.053
Gujarat Titans	12	8	4	0	16	0.551
Sunrisers Hyderabad	12	7	5	0	14	0.331
Punjab Kings	12	6	5	1	13	0.355
Chennai Super Kings	11	6	5	0	12	0.185
Rajasthan Royals	11	6	5	0	12	0.082
Delhi Capitals	12	5	7	0	10	-0.993
Kolkata Knight Riders	11	4	6	1	9	-0.198
Mumbai Indians	12	4	8	0	8	-0.504
Lucknow Super Giants	11	3	8	0	6	-0.907

Virat Kohli and Manish Pandey greet each other after the RCB-KKR match in Raipur on Wednesday. PTI

Kohli-Pandey: U-19 mates and contrasting fortunes

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

It has been more than a year since Manish Pandey last batted in competitive cricket. Once a big name in Indian cricket conversations, the former India player has slipped into oblivion after being overlooked by Karnataka a couple of seasons ago. Apart from the occasional appearance in the Kolkata Knight Riders' dugout or as a regular fielder in the last two matches, the 35-year-old had largely gone unnoticed.

That changed, briefly but dramatically, on Wednesday night in Raipur.

KKR were heading towards defeat against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, and Virat Kohli, who was once again dominating the evening, was on the verge of another IPL century. Yet for a few moments, Pandey managed to steal the spotlight from the showstopper with a breathtaking catch.

Fielding at point, Pandey reacted instantly to Tim David's fierce cut. Diving sharply to his left, not his natural side, he somehow grabbed the ball just inches above the turf, and then, while rolling over, maintained complete control and ensured the ball never touched the ground.

It was the kind of catch that looked unbelievable in real time and even better on replay -- a strong contender for the catch of the tournament and the reactions said it all.

Players from both teams could barely believe what they had witnessed. They were incredible scenes to watch and for a brief moment, KKR may have almost forgotten the disappointment of an inevitable defeat.

Or did the catch make them think even harder about what could have been?

KKR had put down chances offered by both Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal. One was difficult, the other a sitter. Both mistakes proved costly. Kohli went on to slam his ninth IPL ton, broke more records and collected most of the awards on the night.

Still, amid Kohli's century and the celebrations around it, one moment stood out. After Pandey completed the catch, Kohli walked over to him, hugged him warmly and shared a smile with his old Under-19 World Cup teammate. It was a simple gesture, but watching them together inevitably brought up a familiar question: what if things had turned out differently for Pandey?

Their careers began side by side. Both were part of India's Under-19 World Cup-winning team in 2008 with Kohli at the helm. For a while, Pandey even seemed ahead in the race. Long before Kohli became the face of RCB and one of cricket's modern greats, Pandey had already created IPL history by becoming the first Indian batter to score a century in the tournament back in 2009, representing RCB against Deccan Chargers.

For years after that, he remained one of the most reliable performers in domestic cricket across formats. Even now, his numbers narrate a story in themselves. In 118 first-class matches, he averages 50.78 with a great century-conversion rate (25 tons and 32 fifties). In List A cricket too, he averages an impressive 45.39 from 192 games.

Drive to succeed

Talent was never the issue. The drive, perhaps, in the later years was. Kohli kept evolving and reinventing himself and went being a spoilt brat to a batsman supreme.

Today, he stands among the greatest Test batters of his era, arguably the finest ODI player ever and one of the best T20 players as well.

The contrast in the two careers makes Pandey's story all the more poignant.

He was good enough to make his India debut well before 2015 and gifted enough to play far more than the 68 internationals he eventually managed. But at the highest level, talent alone rarely guarantees a long run. Somewhere along the journey, the drive to constantly evolve and push harder faded a little. Otherwise, it is difficult to explain why he chose not to move to another state side over the past two seasons, despite Karnataka clearly moving on from him.

That is where players like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma stand apart. It may have bruised their egos to return for the Vijay Hazare Trophy earlier this year, but both turned up because their eyes remain fixed on the 2027 ODI World Cup.

That is often the difference between the merely talented and the truly driven.

Sooryavanshi picked in Ind A squad for SL series

NEW DELHI, PTI: Teenage batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was on Thursday named in the 15-member India A squad for the tri-nation 50-over series in Sri Lanka, starting June 9.

Apart from the hosts, the other team in the tournament is Afghanistan A. The matches will be played in Dambulla. India A will also play two multi-day (4-day) games in Galle but the squad for that will be announced later.

It is understood that Sooryavanshi has been included as selectors wanted to give him a chance to check him out with the Pathways squad (India A) before he is picked for the senior team for the upcoming tour of the United Kingdom starting June 26. The tri-nation series ends on June 21.

A look at the squad indicates that average age of the team is around 23.

India A squad: Tilak Varma (captain), Priyansh Arya, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Riyan Parag (vice-captain), Ayush Badoni, Nishant Sindhu, Harsh Dubey, Suryansh Shedge, Prabhsimran Singh (WK), Kumar Kushagra (WK), Vipraj Nigam, Yash Thakur, Yudhvir Singh, Anshul Kamboj, Arshad Khan.

Sindhu, Lakshya storm into quarterfinals

BANGKOK, PTI

Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen advanced to the quarterfinals of the USD 500,000 Thailand Open Super 500 tournament with straight-game wins in their respective matches here on Thursday.

Two-time Olympic medallist and sixth seed Sindhu needed just 28 minutes to outclass Denmark's Amalie Schulz 21-13, 21-15 in the women's singles second round.

Seventh seed Lakshya, the 2021 World Championships bronze medallist, defeated China's Zhu Xuan Chen 21-12, 21-13 in a men's singles clash that lasted 39 minutes.

Sindhu will next face top seed and world No. 3 Akane Yamaguchi of Japan, while Lakshya will take on Thailand's second seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn.

India's top-seeded men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also marched into the last-eight stage with a 21-12, 21-19 win over Malaysia's Bryan Jeremy Goonting and Muhammad Haikal in 44 minutes.

The world No. 4 Indian duo will next meet the sixth-seeded Japanese combination of Takumi Nomura and Yuichi Shimogami.

However, former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth crashed out after going down 16-21, 21-11, 18-21 to Chinese Taipei's world No. 47 Su Li Yang in a hard-fought contest lasting one hour and 10 minutes.

It was also the end of the road for young Devika Sihag, who had clinched her maiden Super 300 title at the Thailand Masters earlier this year. She lost 21-23, 11-21 to Thailand's Pitchamon Opatniputh.

Lakshya made a brisk start against Chen, racing to a 6-2 lead before the Chinese player fought back to draw level at 11-11. The Indian, however, shifted gears immediately, winning six consecutive points to take firm control of the opening game.

In the second game, Lakshya looked sharper and more assured as he surged to an 11-5 advantage at the interval and never allowed Chen a way back, capitalising on pressure-induced errors from his opponent.

India's Lakshya Sen defeated China's Zhu Xuan Chen 21-12, 21-13 in the pre-quarterfinals of the Thailand Open on Thursday. AP/ PTI FILE PHOTO

Ajith captures two bronze

GANDHINAGAR, PTI: India continued its impressive campaign at the Asian Senior Weightlifting Championships as Ajith Narayana delivered a remarkable performance to secure a bronze medal each in both clean & jerk and overall in the men's 71kg category here on Thursday.

Competing against some of Asia's finest weightlifters, Ajith showcased exceptional strength and composure to register a total lift of 314 kg, including 174 kg effort in clean & jerk, to earn India a place on the podium.

The gold medal in the category was won by Korean Won Ju Ri (Korea) with a total lift of 351 kg.

Meanwhile China's Jian Chen claimed silver with an aggregate of 335 kg.

Ajith's podium finish marks another significant milestone for Indian weightlifting and reflects the growing stature of the country's athletes on the continental stage.

He is the third Indian to win a medal in the championships. Komal Kohar had opened India's medal count, winning a bronze in the women's 48kg on Monday, before Gyaneshwari Yadav bagged a silver and bronze in the 53kg category on Wednesday.

Sinner breaks Masters 1000 winning streak record

ROME, AFP: Jannik Sinner reached the semifinals of the Italian Open on Thursday after seeing off Andrey Rublev and establishing a new record of consecutive wins in Masters 1000 tournaments.

Jannik Sinner

Another straight-sets victory, this time 6-2, 6-4 over Rublev, moved Sinner up to 32 straight wins in the ATP's top-ranked events, one more than the previous record established by Novak Djokovic in 2011.

"I don't play for records, I play just for my own story," said Sinner on court.

"At the same time, it means a lot to me, but tomorrow is another day, another opponent, a different opponent.

Rublev was Sinner's first seeded opponent at this year's tournament in Rome and the world number one made short work of his task in front of a delighted centre court.

On Friday Sinner is likely to face Daniil Medvedev, winner of the 2023 title at the Foro Italico, with the seventh seed taking on lucky loser Martin Landaluce in the first match of the evening session.

Sinner looks near unbeatable at the moment and with his great rival Carlos Alcaraz out injured he is heavy favourite to become the first Italian to win the Rome title in five decades, with a potential career Grand Slam on the cards at the French Open.

Rublev offered little resistance, the Russian dropping his own serve in the first game of both sets to give Sinner a handy leg-up, and committing 28 unforced errors in 18 games.

Sinner meanwhile showed flashes of his best tennis, with one beautiful cross-court drop shot helping him to break Rublev for the fourth time and take a 4-1 lead in the second set which gave his opponent too much to do.

Iga Swiatek gave another indication she might be back to her brilliant best after destroying Jessica Pegula 6-1, 6-2 at the Foro Italico on Wednesday and breezing into the semifinals.

Pragg takes on Firouzja in Super Chess Classic opener

BUCHAREST (ROMANIA), PTI: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa will take on Alireza Firouzja of France in the first round of the Super Chess Classic here, the first classical event of the year which is as part of the Grand Chess tour.

Left as the lone Indian in the fray following withdrawal of world champion D Gukesh from the classical format this year, Praggnanandhaa drew a favourable number and will get five white games out of nine rounds in the 10-player all-play-all event.

For the records, the total prize pool of the event is USD 350000 with an additional USD 125000 as bonus. The first prize here is USD 100000.

The Indian is in need of an improved show following a mediocre outing in the last Candidates' tournament in April and has dropped to No. 16 in world rankings in live ratings.

Fabiano Caruana of the United States starts as the top seed and is slated to meet in-form Jorden van Foreest.

Muddappa champ after IMSAC verdict

CHENNAI, PTI

Hemanth Muddappa

Bengaluru's Hemanth Muddappa of Mantra Racing has officially been declared the 2025 National Champion in the premier unrestricted class after the Indian Motor Sports Appeals Court (IMSAC) restored his title from the final round of the MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship held last December.

The ruling not only restores Muddappa's victory in the championship-deciding round at the Madras International Circuit, but also elevates the rider popularly known as India's 'Drag King' to a historic milestone -- his 18th National title -- making him the most decorated two-wheeler National champion in Indian motorsport history.

The feat also underlines one of Indian drag racing's most successful rider-tuner partnerships, with Muddappa and long-time tuner Sharan Pratap combining for all 18 National crowns over the years.

The controversy stemmed from an alleged jump start during the final run as Muddappa immediately contested the decision, maintaining that there was no forward or backward movement of the motorcycle.

Shakira, Madonna and BTS to dazzle at FIFA WC final

LOS ANGELES, PTI: Global pop stars Shakira, Madonna and Korean sensation BTS will headline the first-ever half-time show at the 2026 FIFA World Cup final with proceeds going towards a global education initiative.

Shakira

The final match of the tournament will be held on July 19 at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. The event will raise funds for the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund, an initiative aimed at providing access to quality education and football for children worldwide, according to a press release.

Coldplay frontman Chris Martin, who curated the performer lineup, announced the news in a post on social media.

Shakira earlier this month released "Dai Dai", the official 2026 World Cup song with Nigerian artist Burna Boy.

It is her second World Cup anthem, following "Waka Waka (This Time for Africa)", which she performed at the opening ceremony of the 2010 edition in South Africa.

Madonna, meanwhile, is set to return to the Tribeca Festival this summer with a new cinematic project tied to her forthcoming studio album "Confessions II," due July 3.

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